

STARRING LARON

# Mystery City

HIP FLASK®

THE BIG HERE & THE LONG NOW  
EPISODE ONE OF THREE





PRESENTS:

# HIP FLASK®

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THE PAST IS BUT  
THE BEGINNING OF  
A BEGINNING, AND  
ALL THAT IS AND  
HAS BEEN IS BUT  
THE TWILIGHT OF  
A DAWN.  
H. G. WELLS,  
'THE DISCOVERY  
OF THE FUTURE'  
1902





# P R O L O G U E

*Nothing is Sacred.*





*The atom was ripped open, DNA ruthlessly unravelled,  
the man of science now assumes dominion.*

*Nature's resources fall  
under his command.*

*Human life, expendable.*



*Animal life, expendable.*



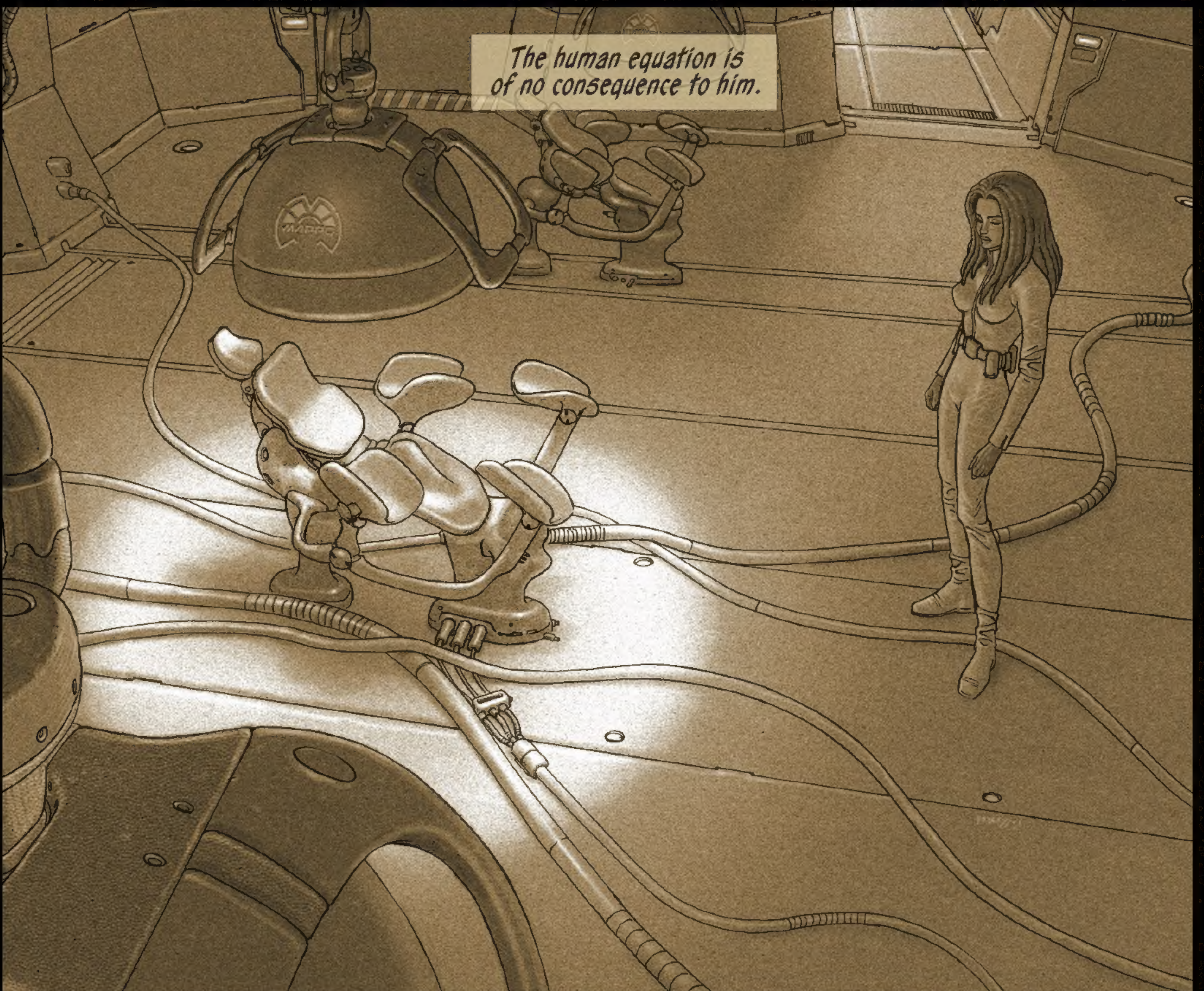


*The man of science knows that it is his responsibility,  
his right, to prise open nature's shells and  
extract all the secrets inside.*



*Nothing is Sacred.*

*The human equation is  
of no consequence to him.*

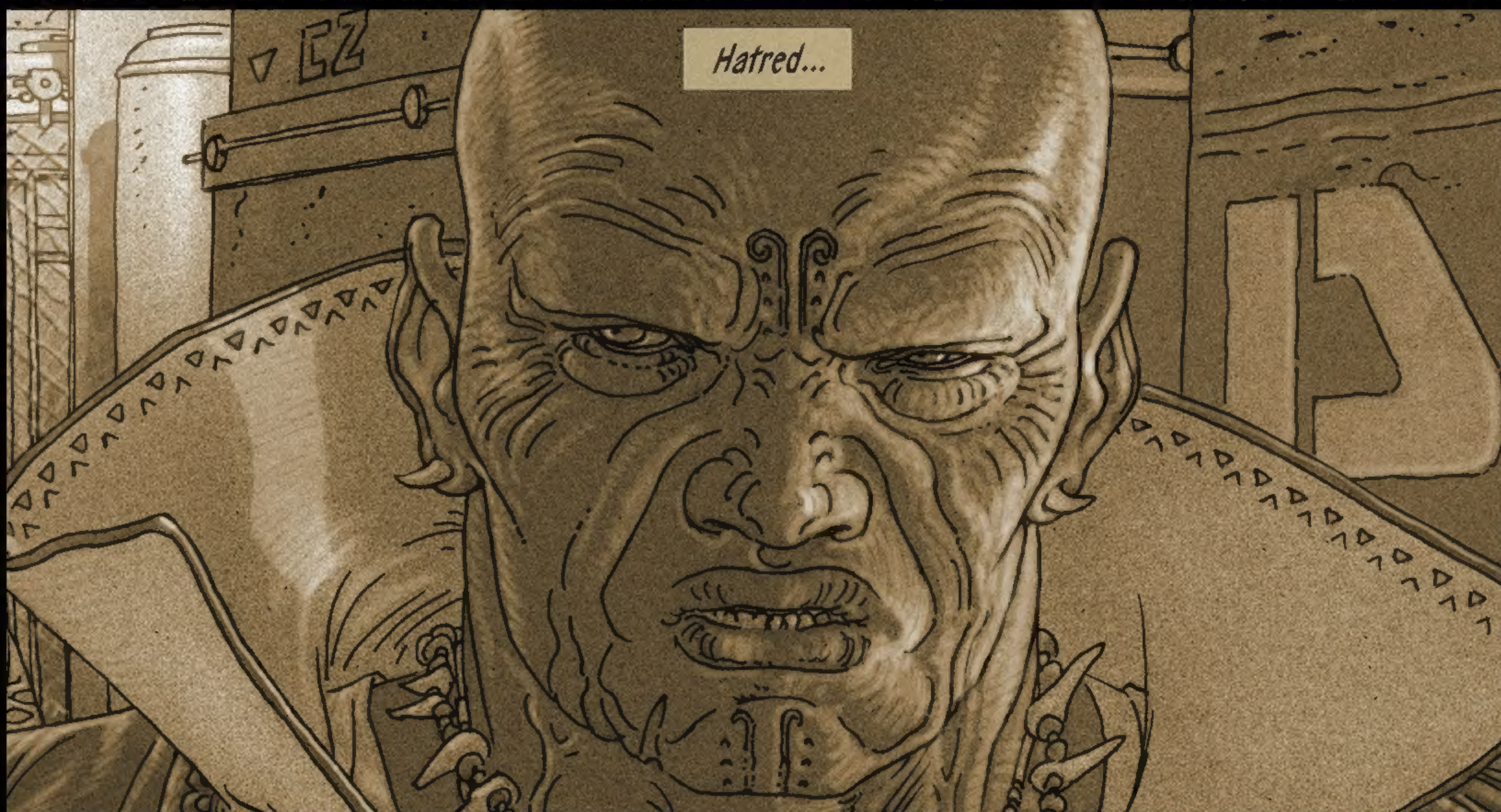




*Those that believe the human  
condition to be superior  
to that of animals are fools.*



*Hatred...*



*Anger...*







*Suffering...*



*Fear...*



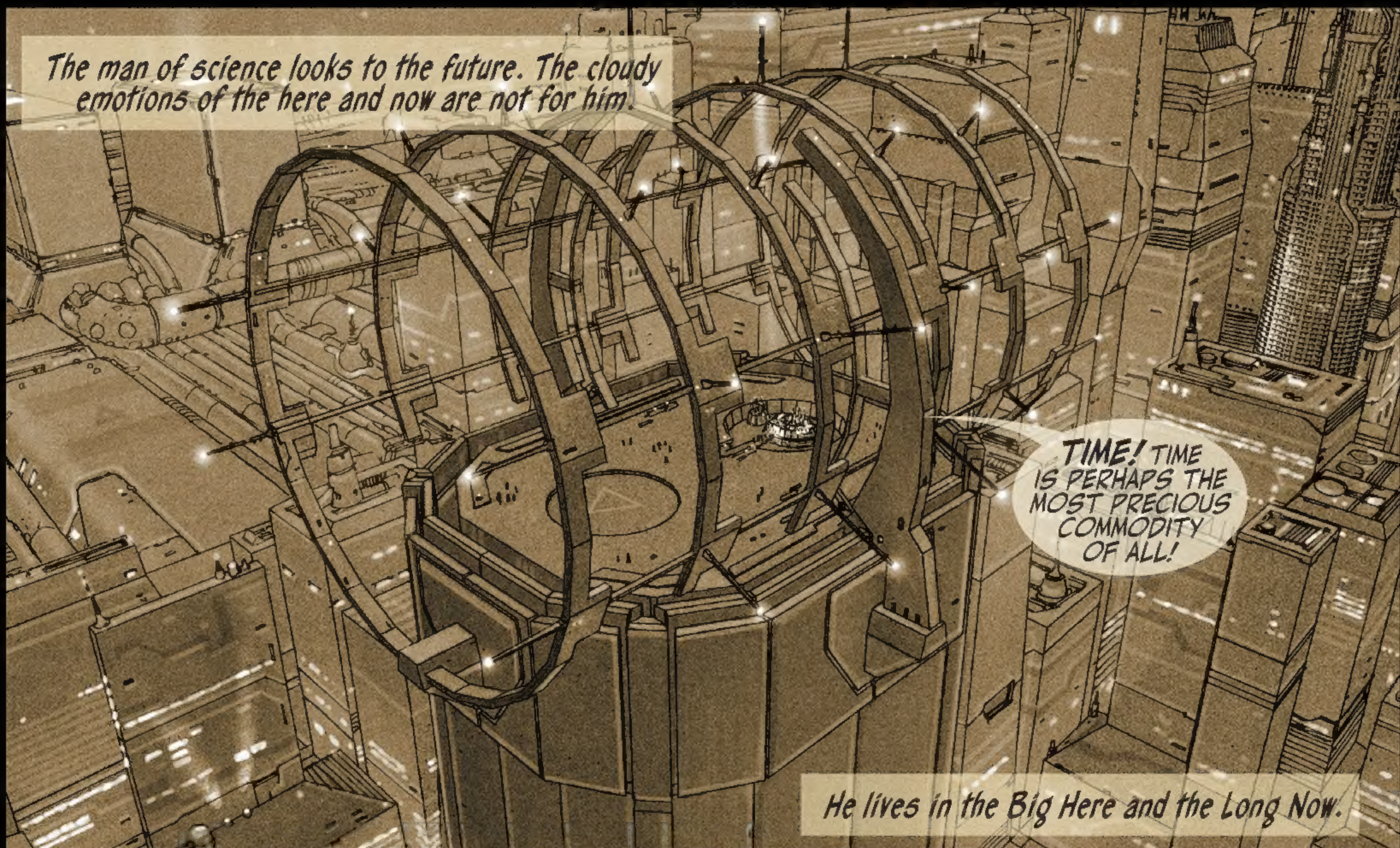
*Longing...*

*These are the base feelings  
of lesser creatures.*

*Feelings that trap  
them in the past.*



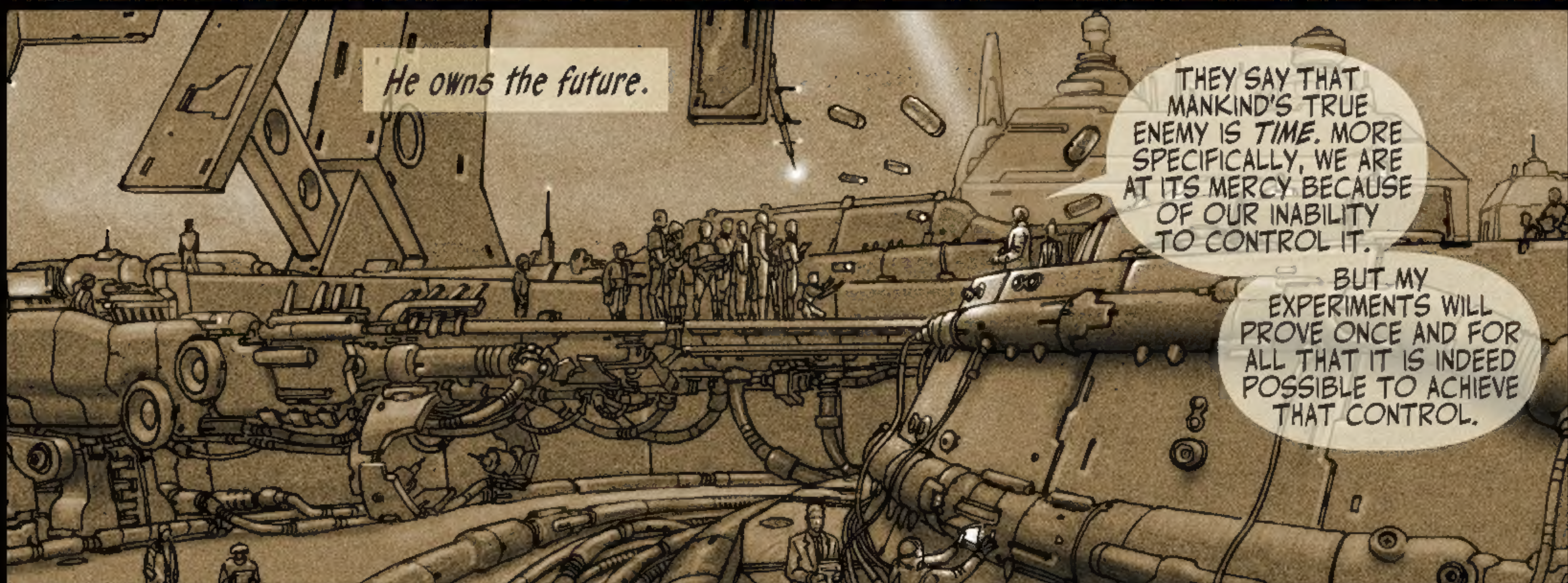
The man of science looks to the future. The cloudy emotions of the here and now are not for him.



TIME! TIME IS PERHAPS THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY OF ALL!

He lives in the Big Here and the Long Now.

He owns the future.



THEY SAY THAT MANKIND'S TRUE ENEMY IS TIME. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE AT ITS MERCY BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY TO CONTROL IT.

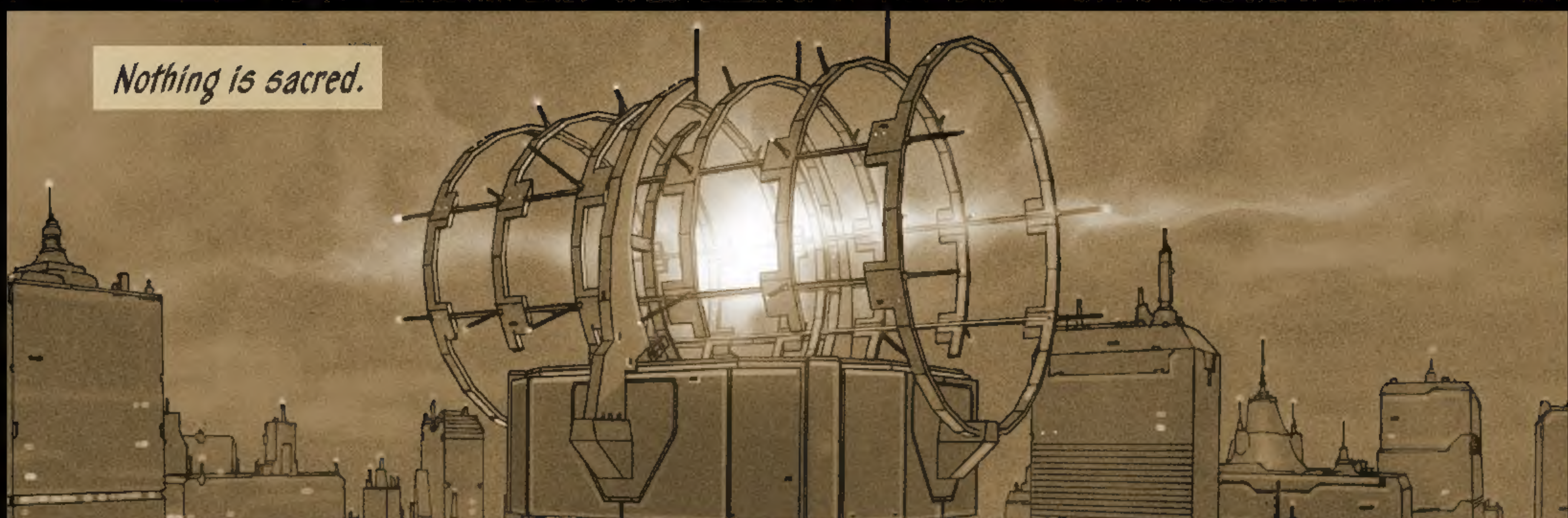
BUT MY EXPERIMENTS WILL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT IT IS INDEED POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THAT CONTROL.

THE MACHINERY HERE MAY RESEMBLE A TUNNEL, BUT DO NOT BE SEDUCED BY THE IDEA THAT WE TRAVEL *THROUGH* TIME... IT IS NOT IN FRONT OF US, OR BEHIND US...

NO, TO TRULY UNDERSTAND TIME, WE MUST ABANDON SUCH *LINEAR* CONCEPTS, AND ACCEPT THAT TIME IS SIMPLY A SHIFTING, KALEIDOSCOPIC PATTERN... ONE THAT ENVELOPS AND SURROUNDS US ALL.



Nothing is sacred.





*Weaker men fear us.*



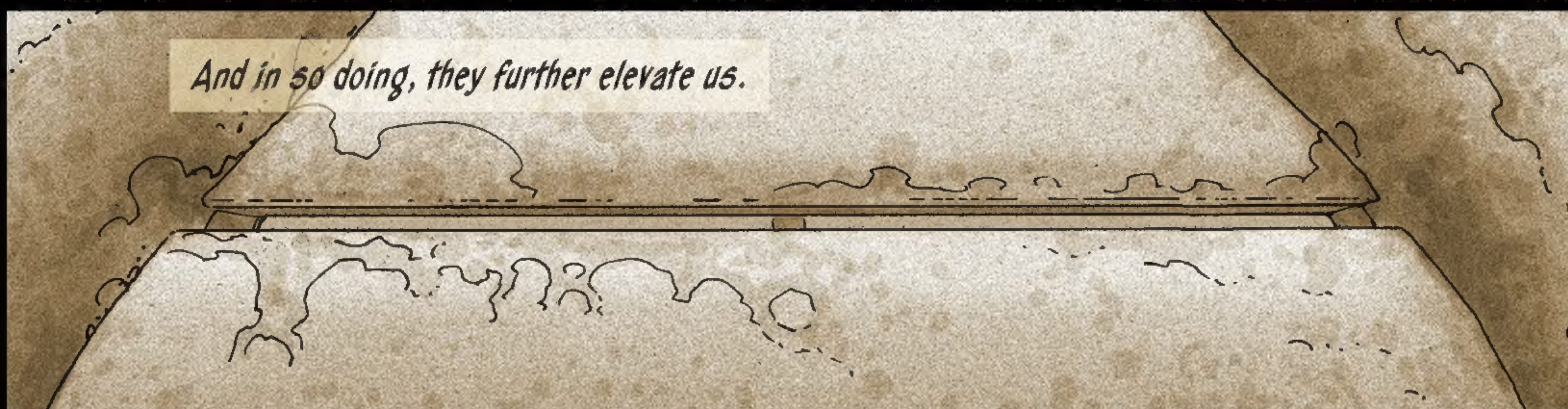
*They send us away.*



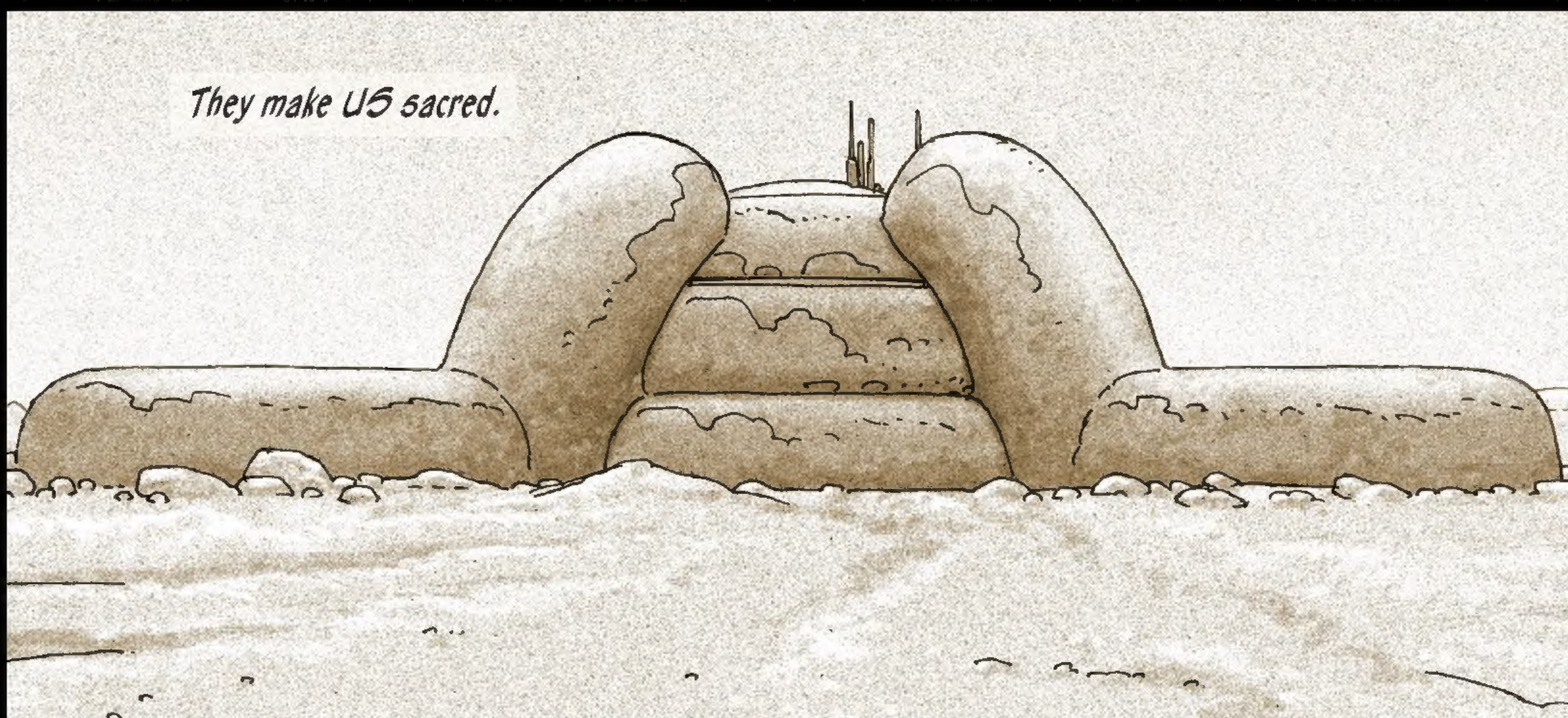
*Lock us up.*



*And in so doing, they further elevate us.*



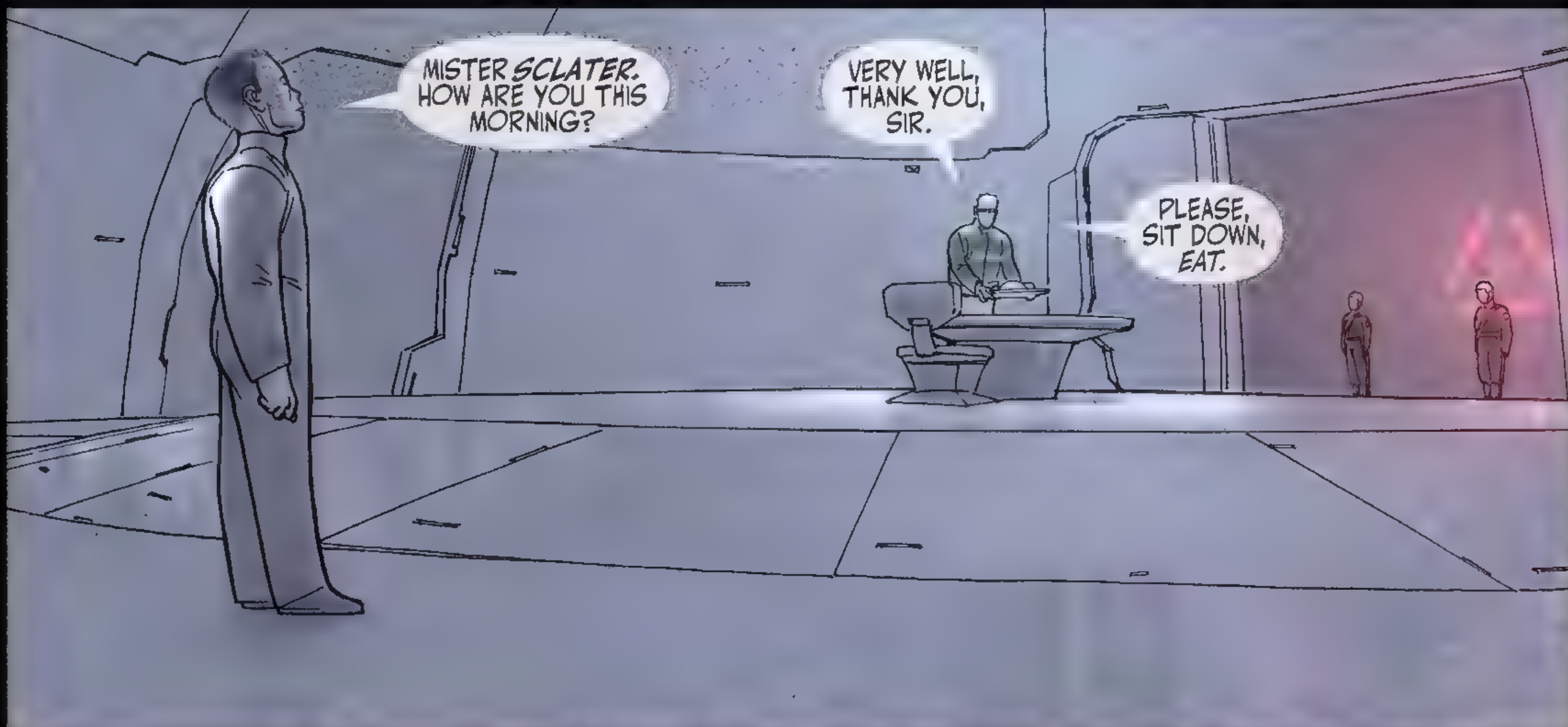
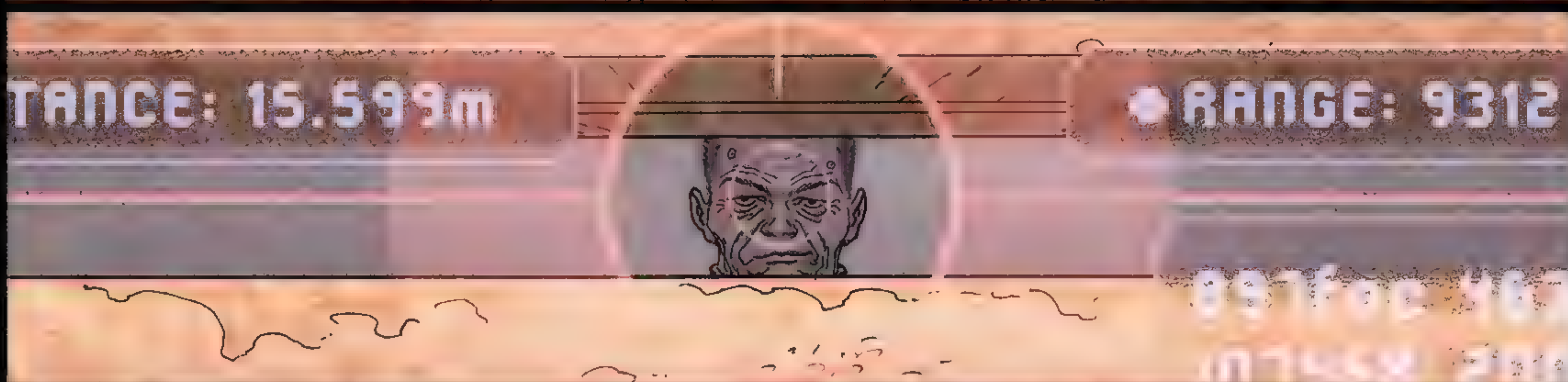
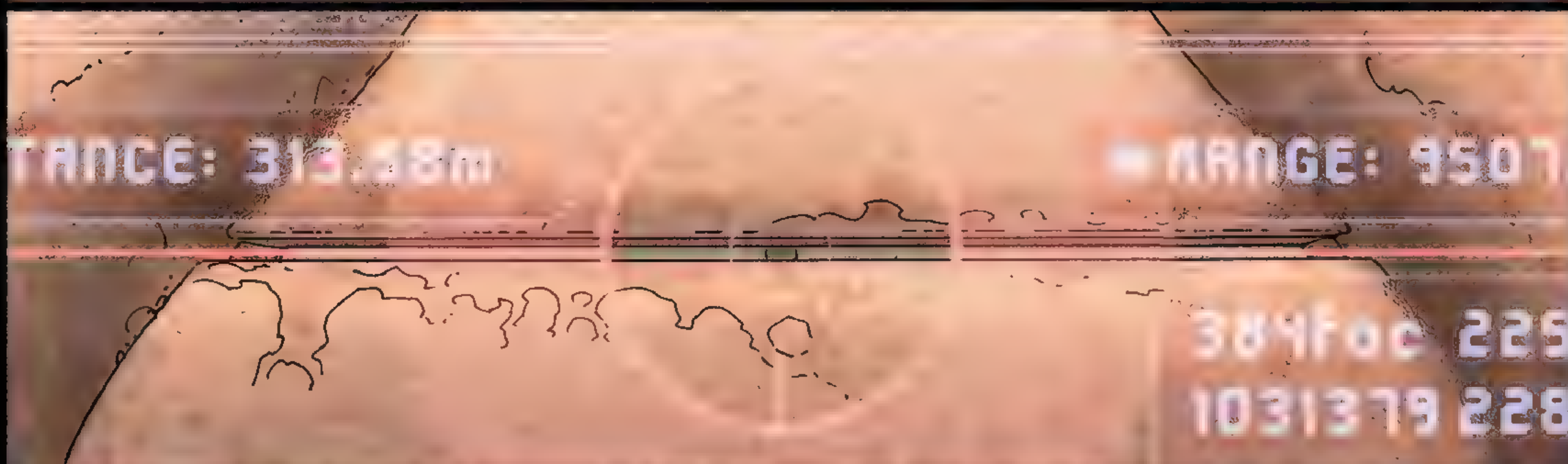
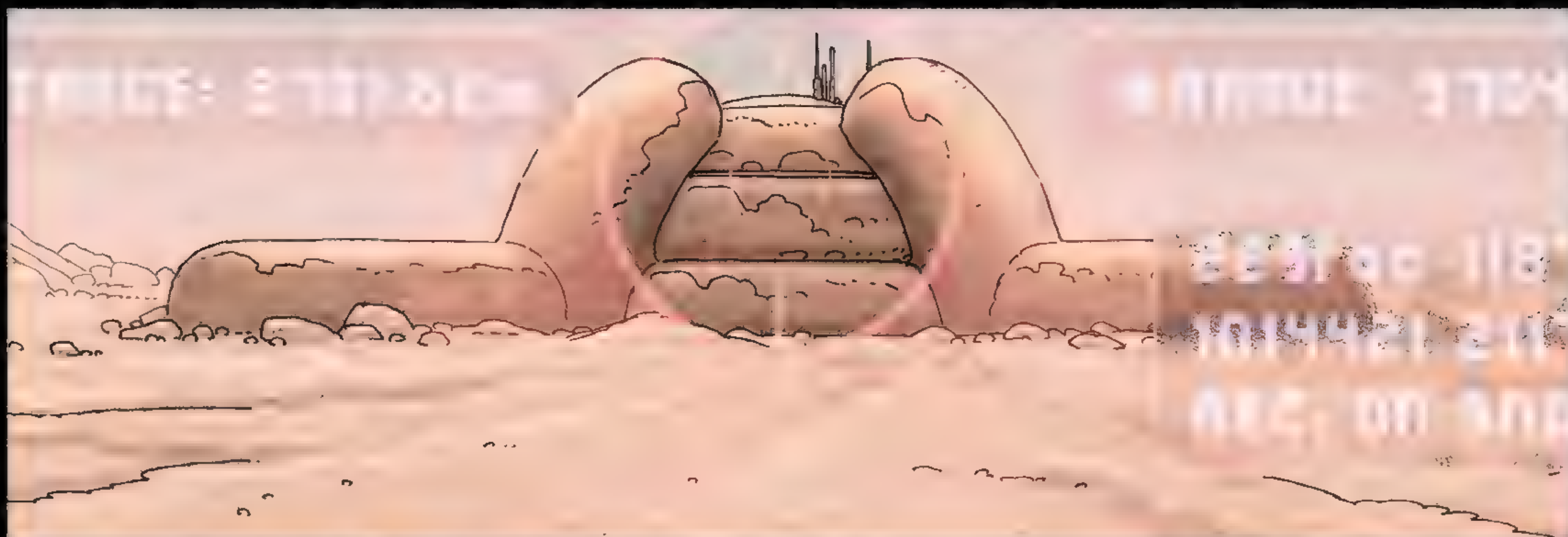
*They make US sacred.*





THE MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA, 2262

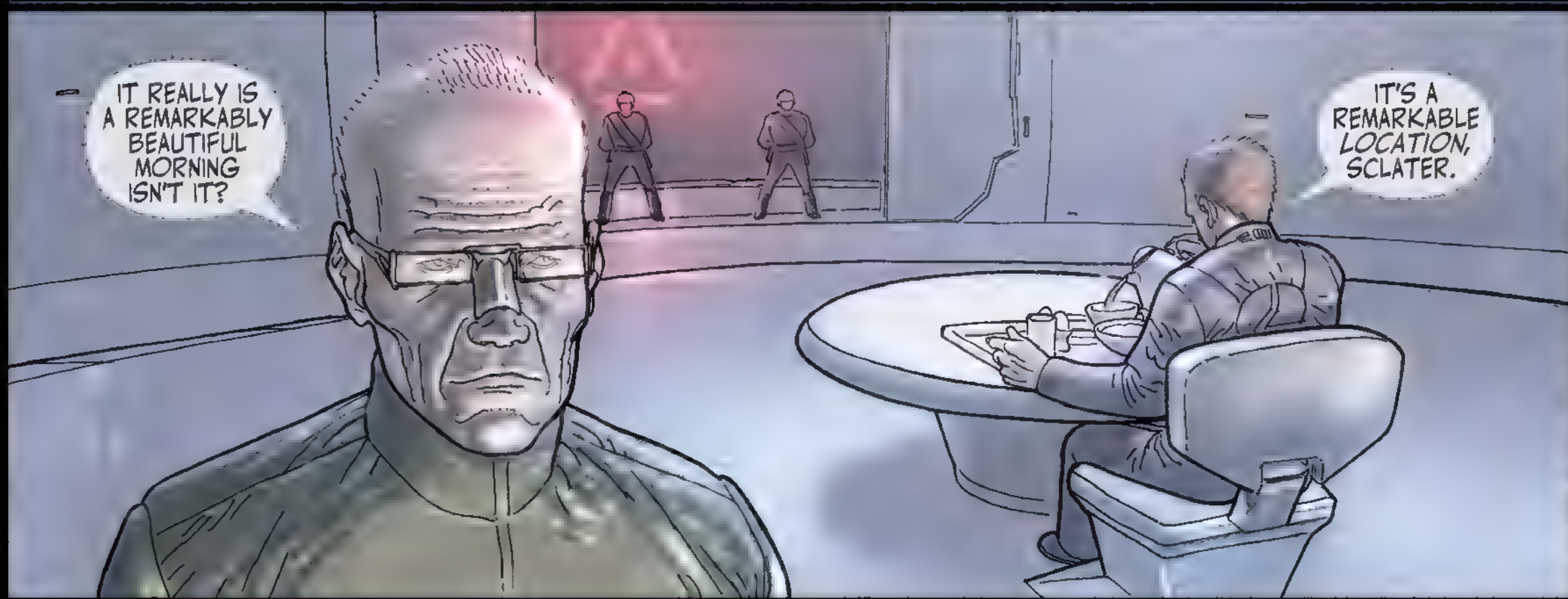






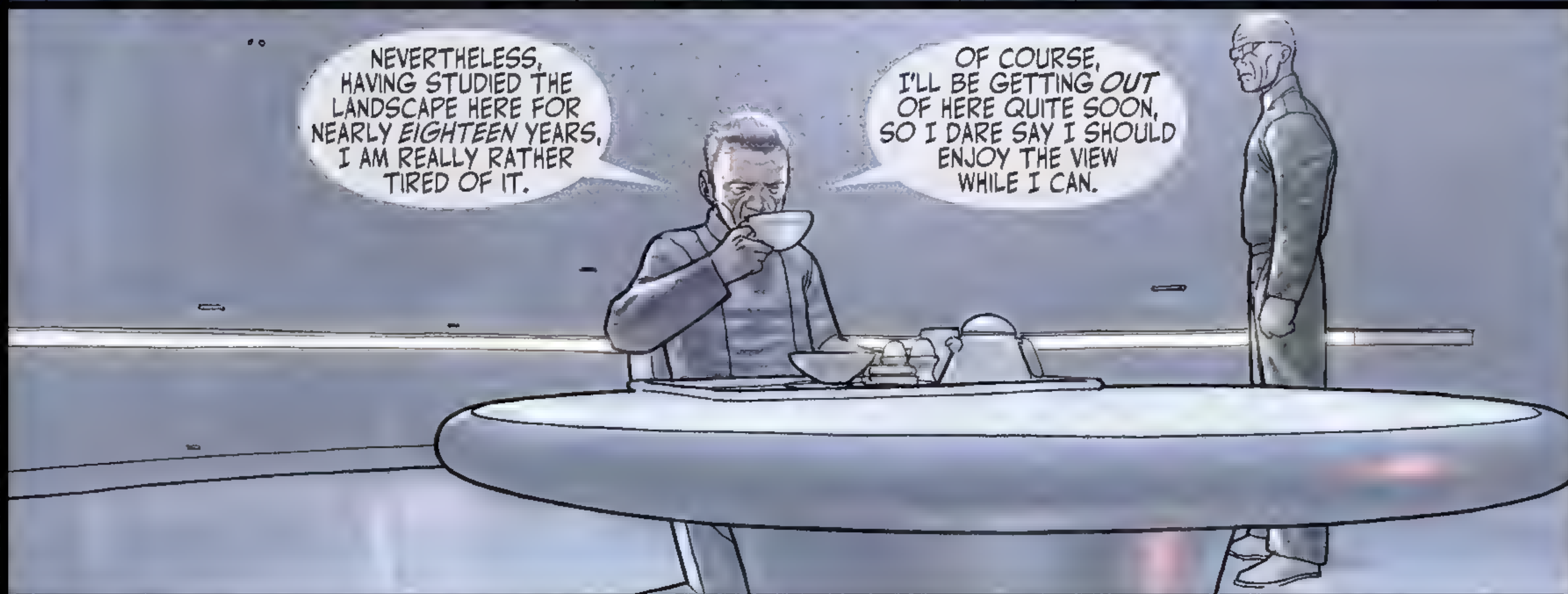


AH, YES.  
EGGS.  
MY  
FAVORITE.



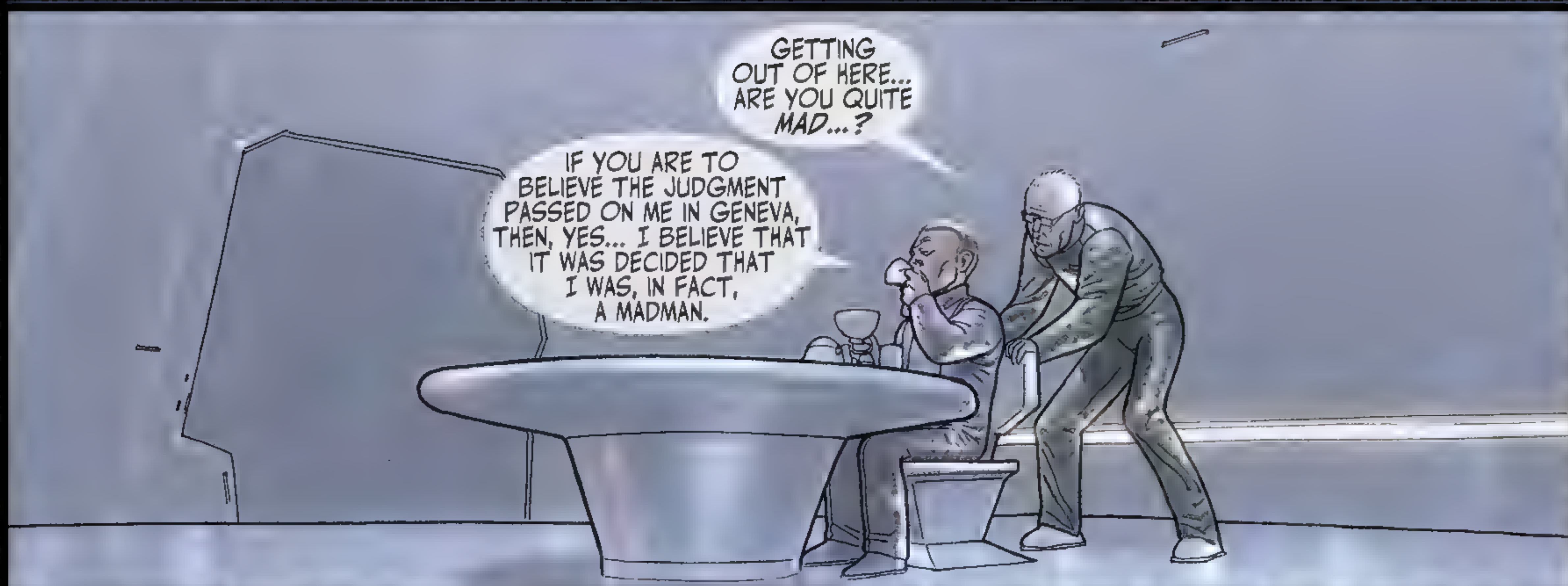
IT REALLY IS  
A REMARKABLY  
BEAUTIFUL  
MORNING  
ISN'T IT?

IT'S A  
REMARKABLE  
LOCATION,  
SCLATER.



NEVERTHELESS,  
HAVING STUDIED THE  
LANDSCAPE HERE FOR  
NEARLY EIGHTEEN YEARS,  
I AM REALLY RATHER  
TIRED OF IT.

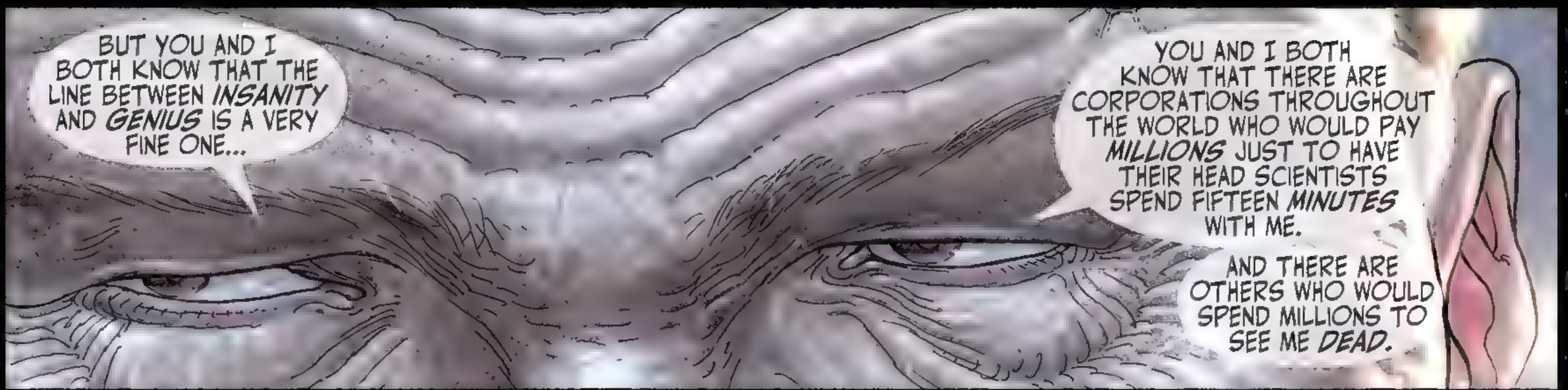
OF COURSE,  
I'LL BE GETTING OUT  
OF HERE QUITE SOON,  
SO I DARE SAY I SHOULD  
ENJOY THE VIEW  
WHILE I CAN.



GETTING  
OUT OF HERE...  
ARE YOU QUITE  
MAD...?

IF YOU ARE TO  
BELIEVE THE JUDGMENT  
PASSED ON ME IN GENEVA,  
THEN, YES... I BELIEVE THAT  
IT WAS DECIDED THAT  
I WAS, IN FACT,  
A MADMAN.

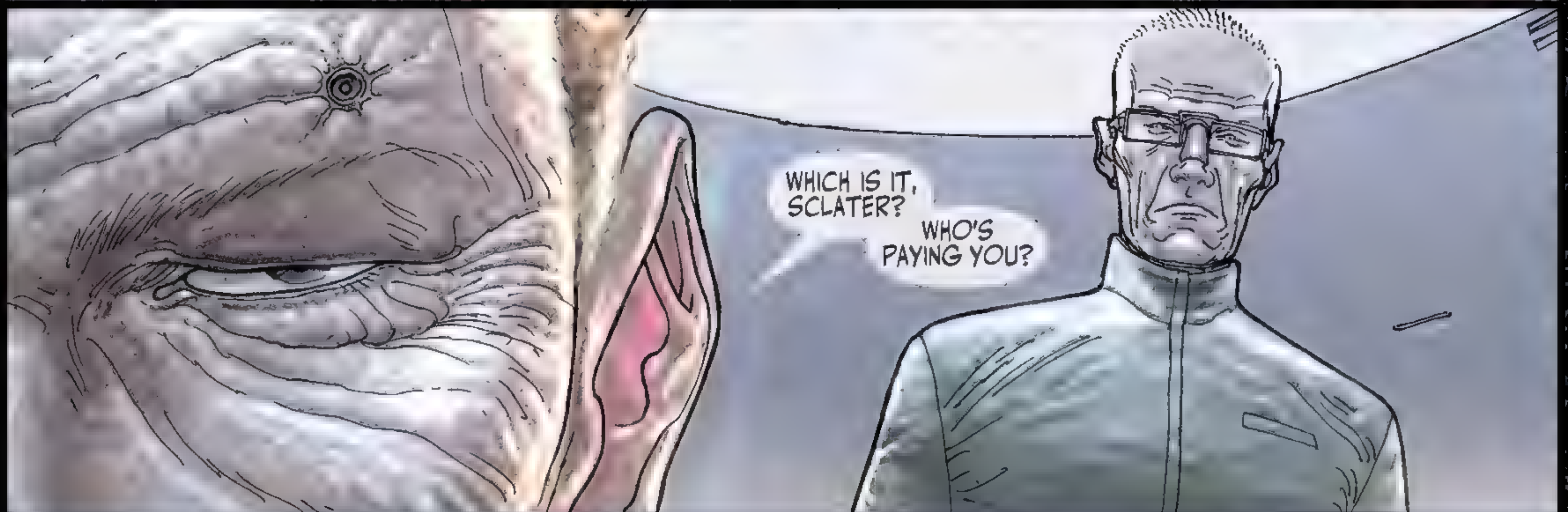




BUT YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT THE LINE BETWEEN *INSANITY* AND *GENIUS* IS A VERY FINE ONE...

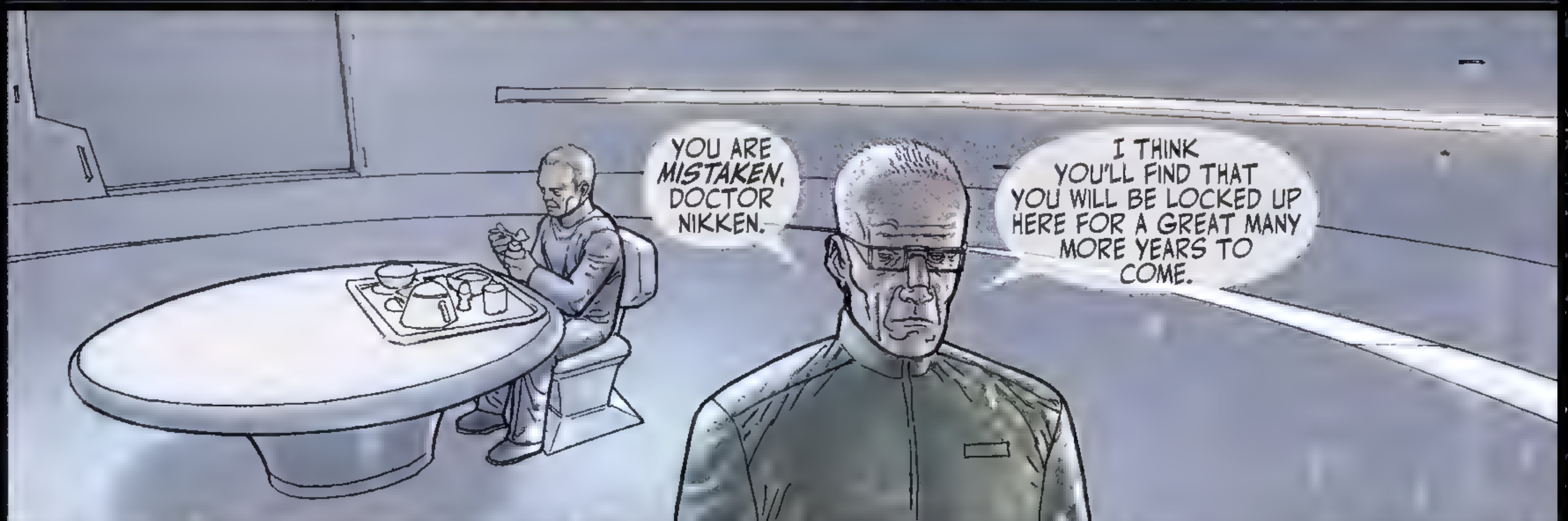
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT THERE ARE CORPORATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO WOULD PAY *MILLIONS* JUST TO HAVE THEIR HEAD SCIENTISTS SPEND FIFTEEN *MINUTES* WITH ME.

AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WOULD SPEND *MILLIONS* TO SEE ME *DEAD*.



WHICH IS IT, SCLATER?

WHO'S PAYING YOU?



YOU ARE MISTAKEN, DOCTOR NIKKEN.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT YOU WILL BE LOCKED UP HERE FOR A GREAT MANY MORE YEARS TO COME.



SLADE, I THINK THE PRISONER HAS SEEN *ENOUGH* DAYLIGHT.

RETURN HIM TO HIS CELL, I WILL ASSIGN TWO MORE GUARDS IMMEDIATELY.



YES, DOUBLE THE GUARDS.

I'M A VERY DANGEROUS MAN.



...AND IF YOU WERE  
WATCHING THE LIVE  
COVERAGE OF THE  
BAVERSTOCK EXPERIMENT  
LAST NIGHT, YOU'LL  
KNOW THAT THINGS DID  
NOT GO EXACTLY AS  
PLANNED...

WELL, FAR BE IT FROM ME  
TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO,"  
RABBI... BUT HEY --  
I TOLD YOU SO!

ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE STORY?  
DO WE KNOW WHO WAS  
DRIVING THE CAR YET?  
HEY, MAYBE IT'S A VISITOR  
FROM THE YEAR  
TWENTY-FIVE, TWENTY-FIVE!

GO AHEAD AND JOKE  
ABOUT IT, HERMAN.  
THAT CAR APPEARED  
OUT OF THIN AIR AND  
WE ARE TALKING ABOUT  
A TIME TRAVEL  
EXPERIMENT!

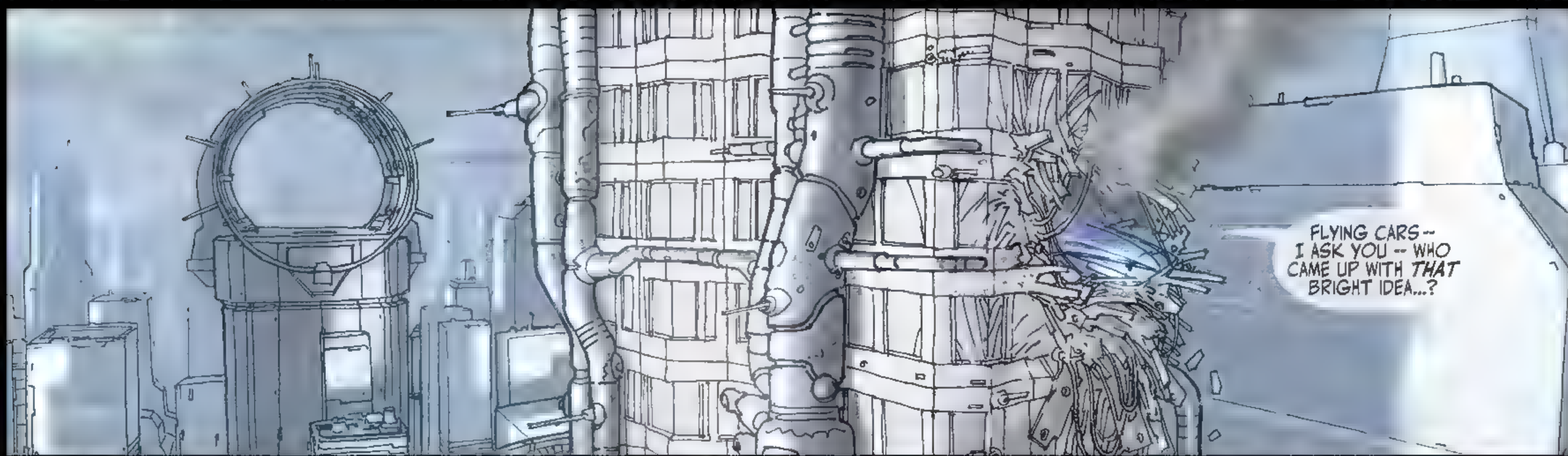
RABBI, COME ON!  
I SAW THE CAR --  
IT WAS A PINTO FOR  
CRYING OUT LOUD!  
ARE YOU TELLING  
ME THEY'LL STILL BE  
MAKING THAT MODEL  
THREE HUNDRED YEARS  
FROM NOW?!

TRUST ME, MY FRIEND,  
THIS IS ALL JUST A BIG  
SET UP -- A PLAY TO  
GET MORE MONEY SO  
THEY CAN KEEP THAT BIG  
SNO-CONE OF A BUILDING  
OPERATIONAL FOR ANOTHER  
COUPLE OF YEARS...

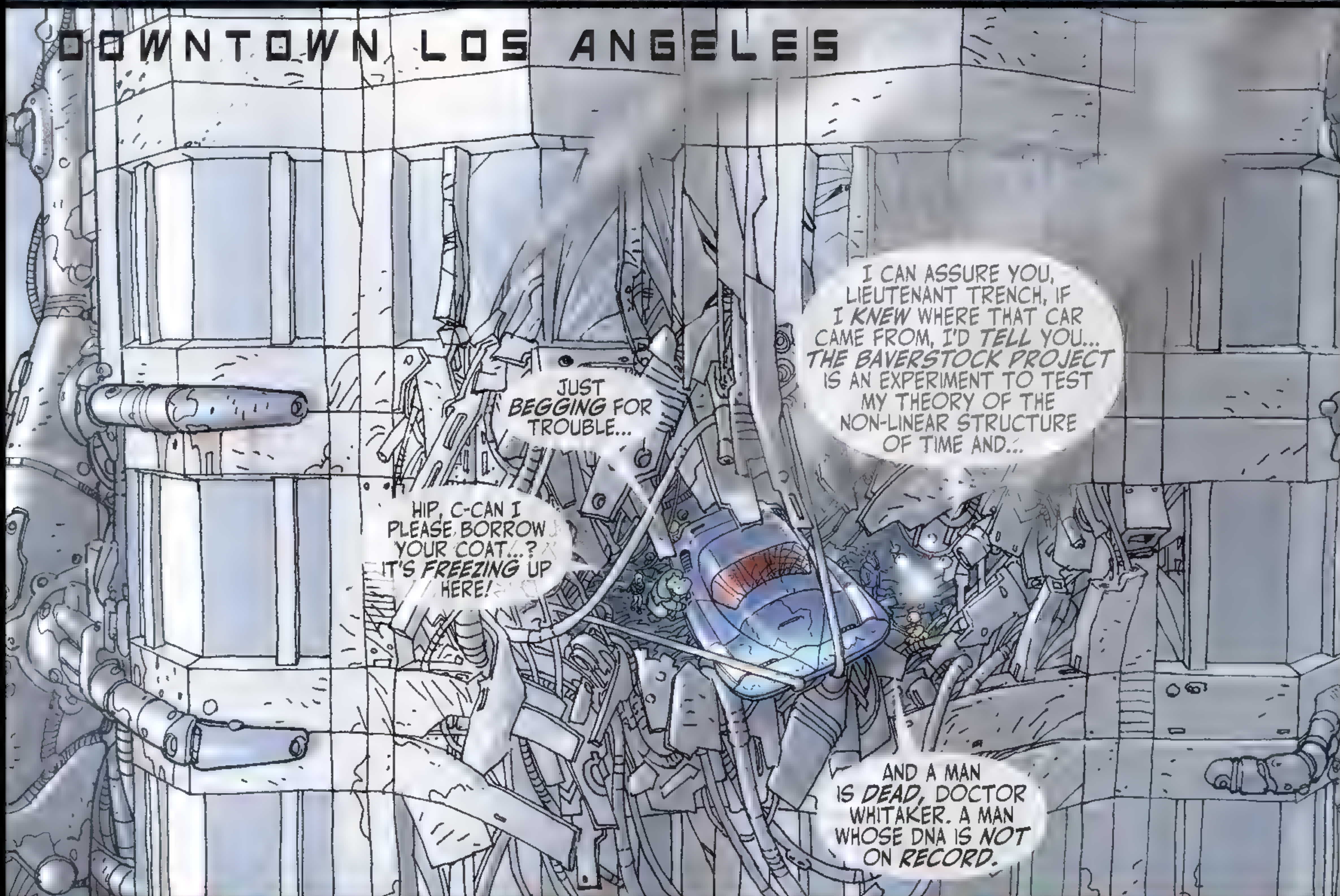
...I BETCHA  
THEY'RE GONNA GET  
BAGS OF CASH AFTER THIS  
LITTLE DISPLAY, AND IF  
I WAS THE OWNER OF THE  
MARLOWE BUILDING I'D BE  
CALLING MY LAWYERS IN TO  
SUE THE FOUNDATION FOR  
THAT CAR-SIZED HOLE IN  
THE SIDE OF THE TOWER  
THERE.

EVER THE COLD-HEARTED CYNIC,  
HERMAN... YOU'RE LISTENING  
TO THE HERMAN STRUM SHOW,  
STREAMING 24/7 FROM  
DOWNTOWN L.A., WE'LL BE  
RIGHT BACK...





FLYING CARS --  
I ASK YOU -- WHO  
CAME UP WITH *THAT*  
BRIGHT IDEA...?



DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

JUST  
BEGGING FOR  
TROUBLE...

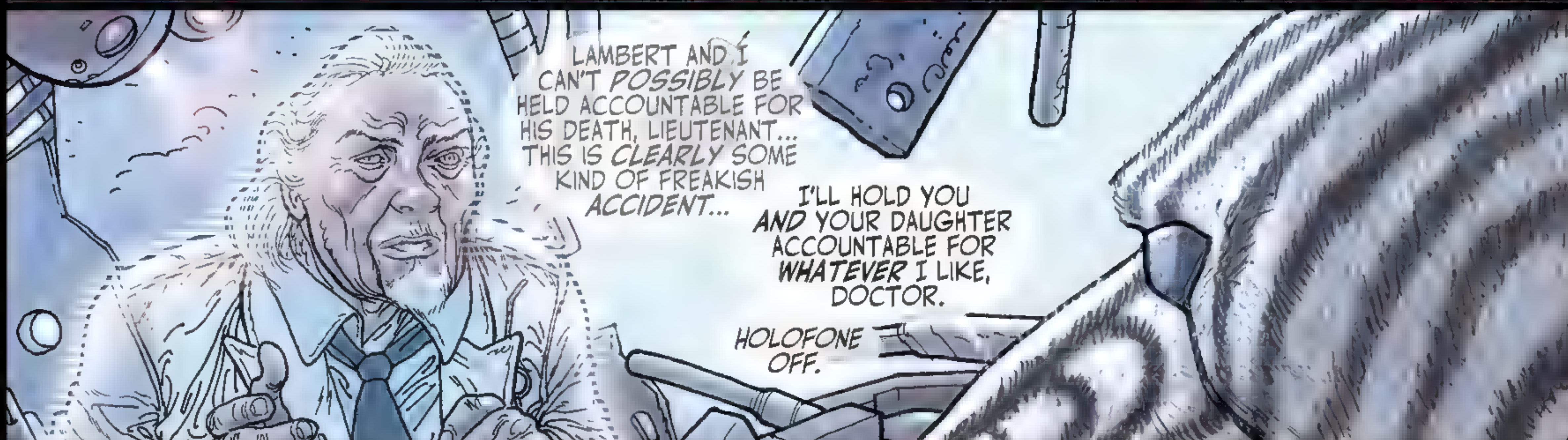
HIP, C-CAN I  
PLEASE BORROW  
YOUR COAT...?  
IT'S FREEZING UP  
HERE!

I CAN ASSURE YOU,  
LIEUTENANT TRENCH, IF  
I *KNEW* WHERE THAT CAR  
CAME FROM, I'D TELL YOU...  
*THE BAVERSTOCK PROJECT*  
IS AN EXPERIMENT TO TEST  
MY THEORY OF THE  
NON-LINEAR STRUCTURE  
OF TIME AND...

AND A MAN  
IS DEAD, DOCTOR  
WHITAKER. A MAN  
WHOSE DNA IS *NOT*  
ON *RECORD*.



OH,  
MUD OF  
MERCY...



LAMBERT AND I  
CAN'T POSSIBLY BE  
HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR  
HIS DEATH, LIEUTENANT...  
THIS IS CLEARLY SOME  
KIND OF FREAKISH  
ACCIDENT...

I'LL HOLD YOU  
AND YOUR DAUGHTER  
ACCOUNTABLE FOR  
WHATEVER I LIKE,  
DOCTOR.

HOLOPHONE  
OFF.



THE BIG HERE & THE LONG NOW  
EPISODE ONE

# Mystery City

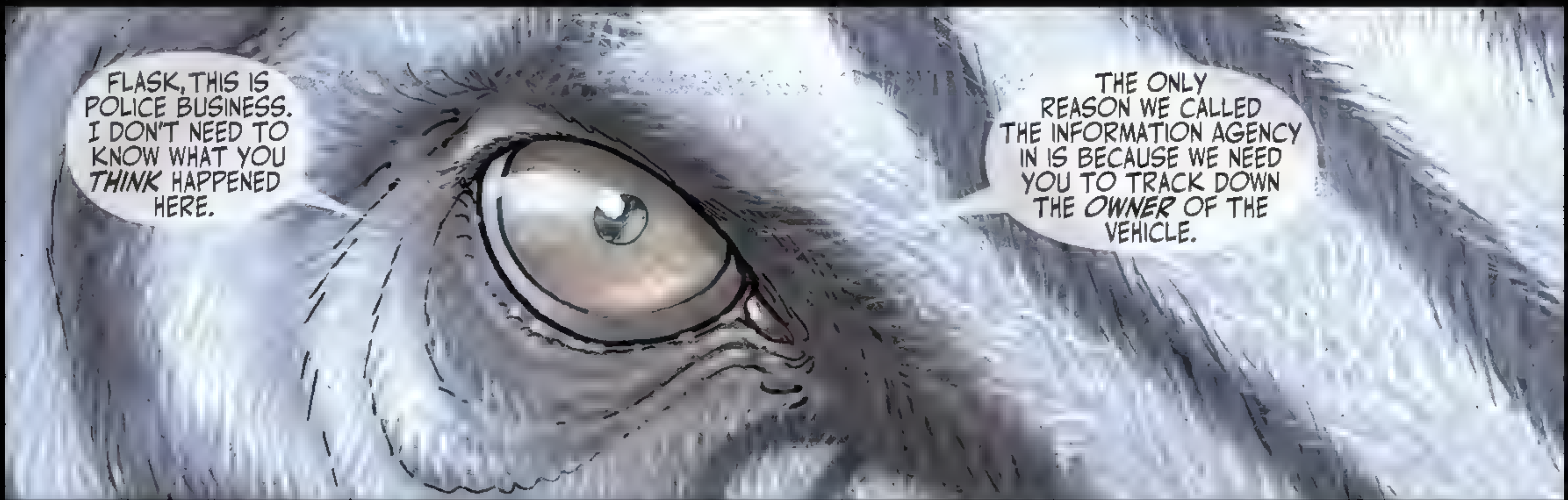
WELL, I'LL TELL  
YA SOMETHING  
FOR NOTHING,  
TRENCH...

THE CAR'S  
DRIVER WASN'T  
KILLED IN THE  
CRASH...

HE WAS  
CRUSHED BY  
SOMETHING  
MUCH MORE  
DEADLY.

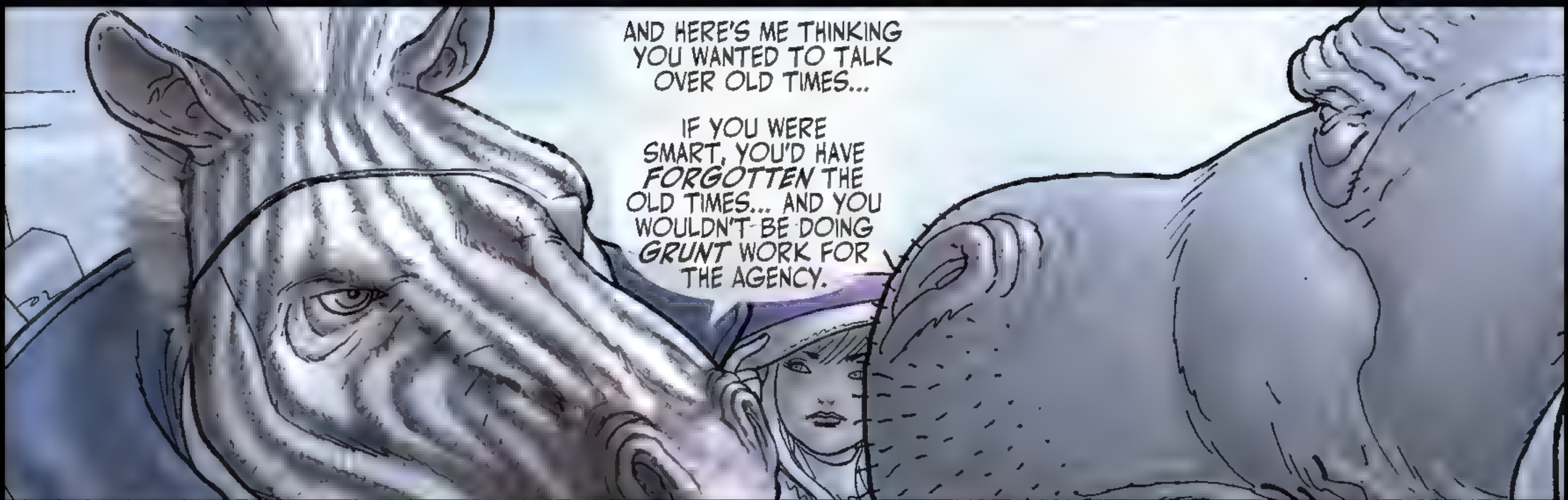






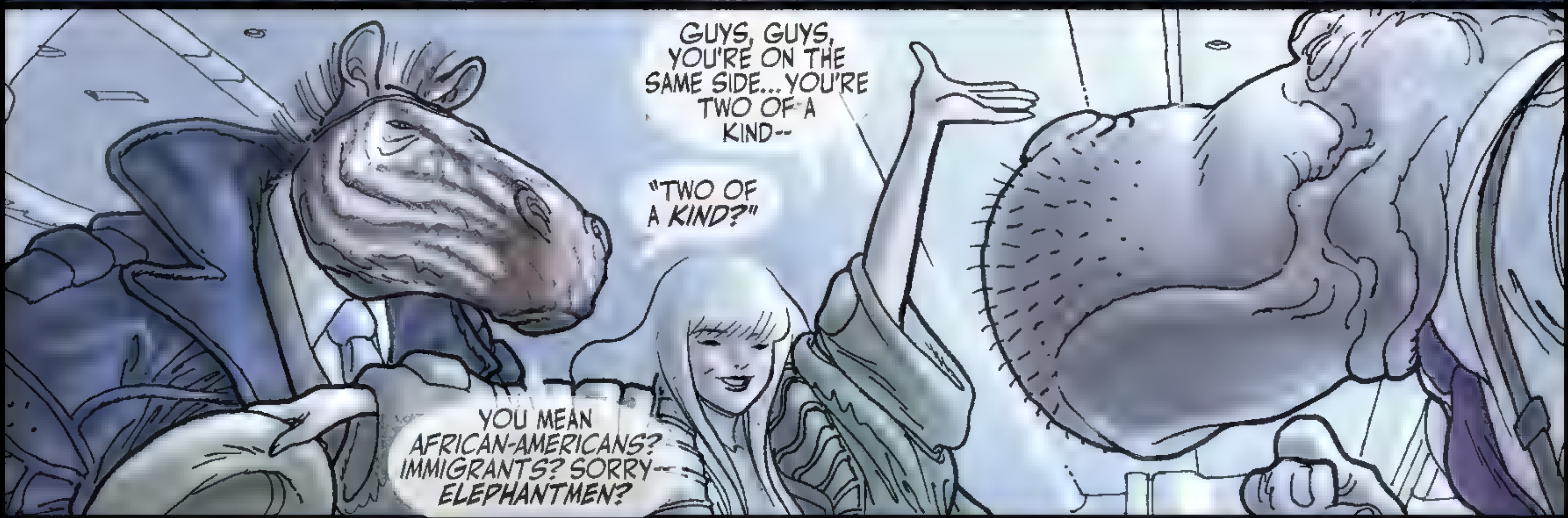
FLASK, THIS IS  
POLICE BUSINESS.  
I DON'T NEED TO  
KNOW WHAT YOU  
*THINK* HAPPENED  
HERE.

THE ONLY  
REASON WE CALLED  
THE INFORMATION AGENCY  
IN IS BECAUSE WE NEED  
YOU TO TRACK DOWN  
THE *OWNER* OF THE  
VEHICLE.



AND HERE'S ME THINKING  
YOU WANTED TO TALK  
OVER OLD TIMES...

IF YOU WERE  
SMART, YOU'D HAVE  
*FORGOTTEN* THE  
OLD TIMES... AND YOU  
WOULDN'T BE DOING  
*GRUNT* WORK FOR  
THE AGENCY.



GUYS, GUYS,  
YOU'RE ON THE  
SAME SIDE... YOU'RE  
TWO OF A  
KIND--

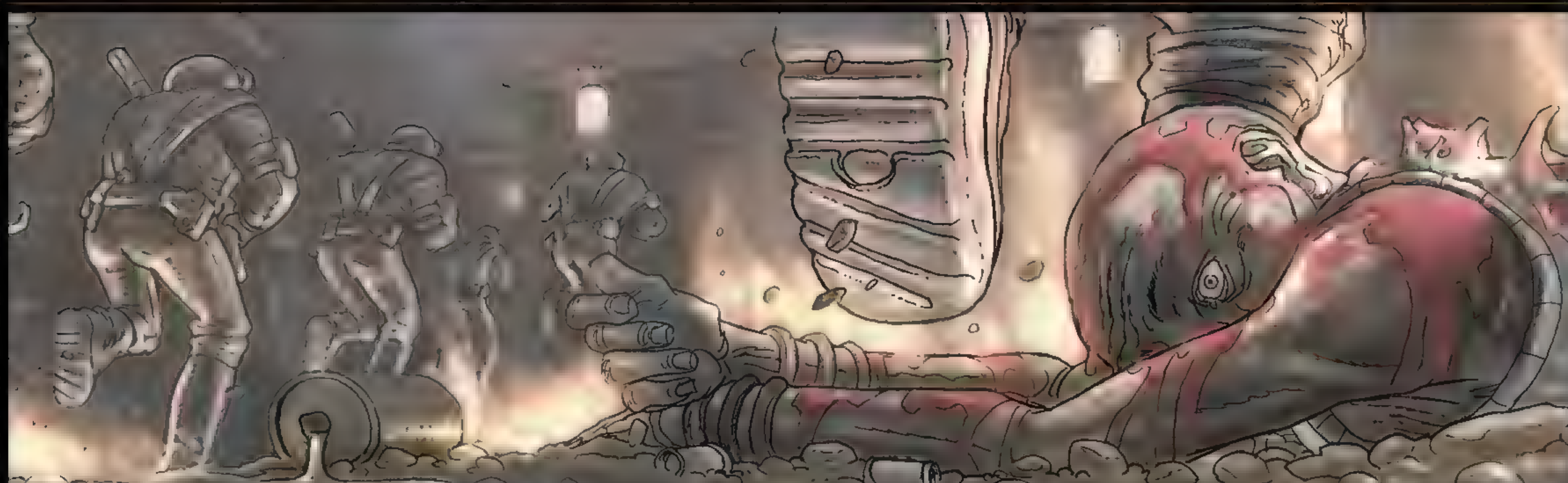
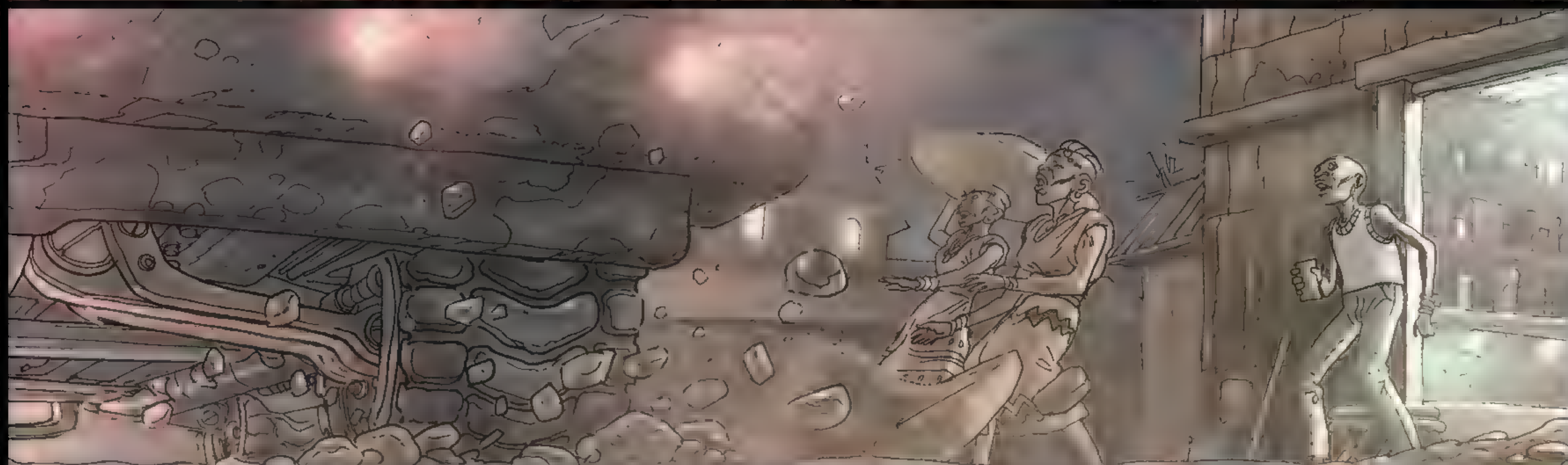
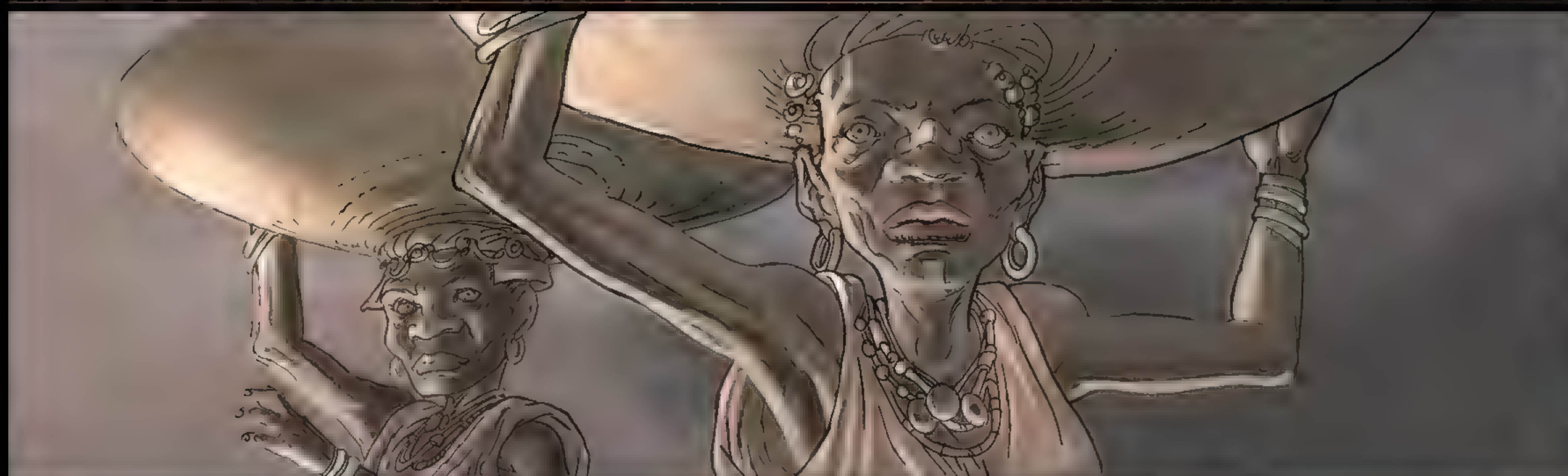
"TWO OF  
A KIND?"

YOU MEAN  
AFRICAN-AMERICANS?  
IMMIGRANTS? SORRY--  
*ELEPHANT*MEN?

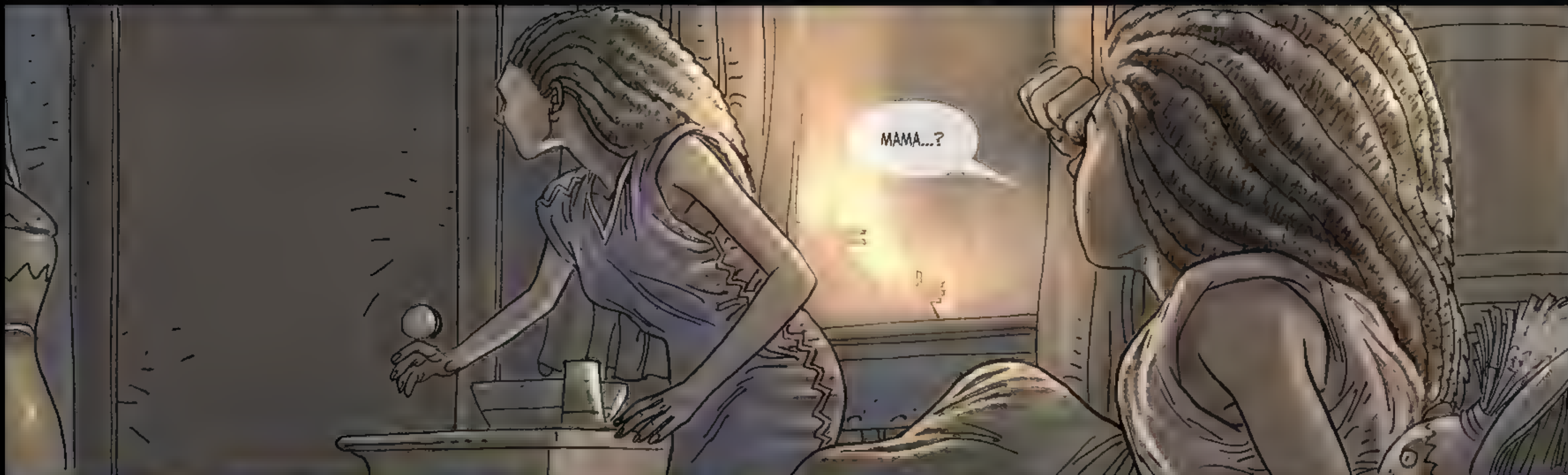
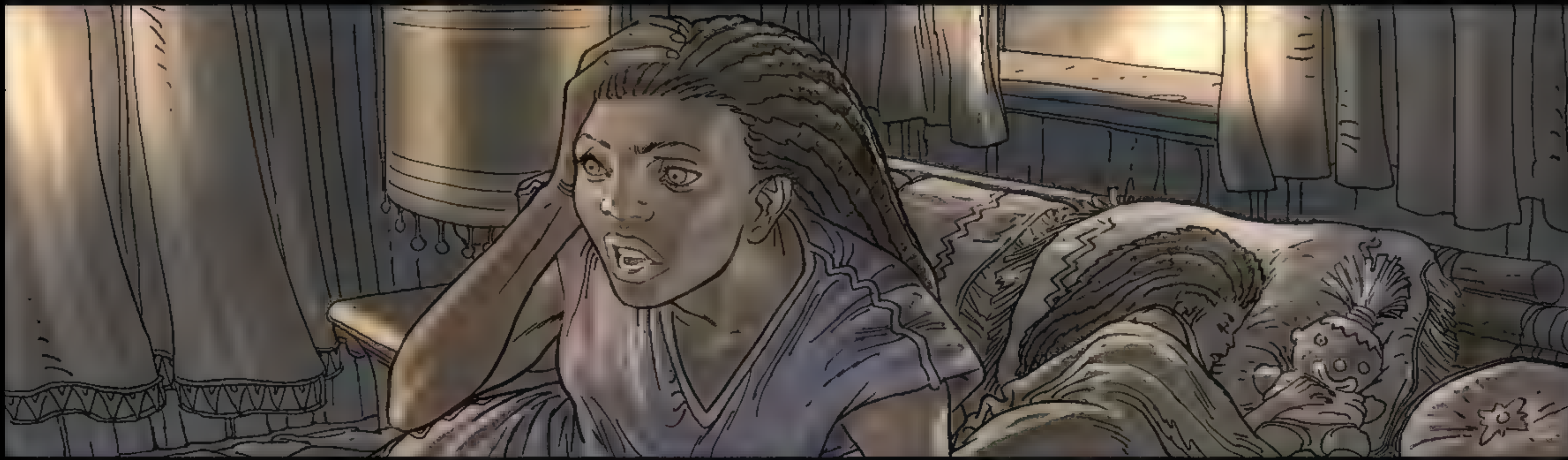


MISS CASE,  
PERHAPS YOU HAVEN'T  
NOTICED... NEITHER ONE  
OF US LOOK LIKE  
*ELEPHANTS*.



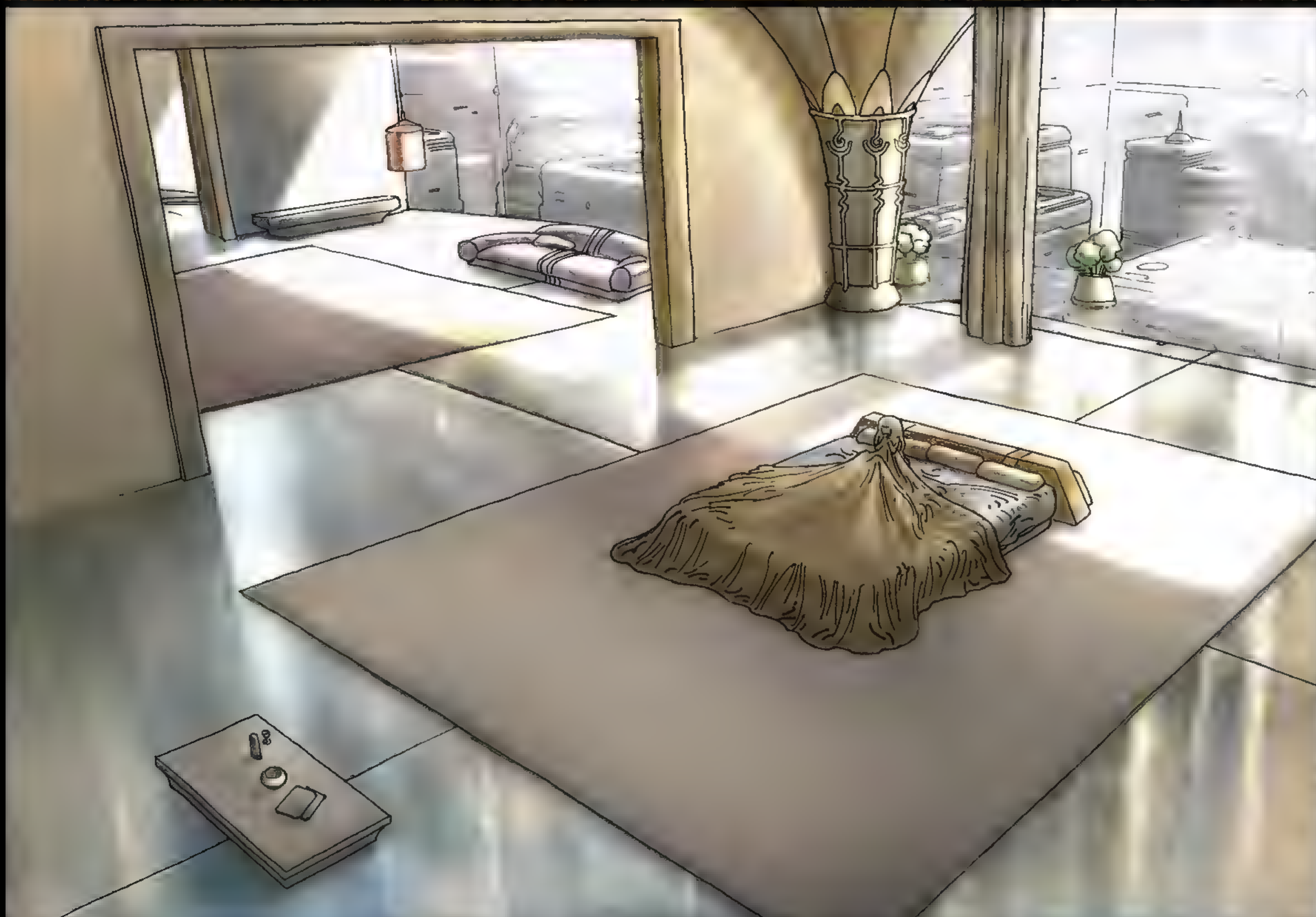
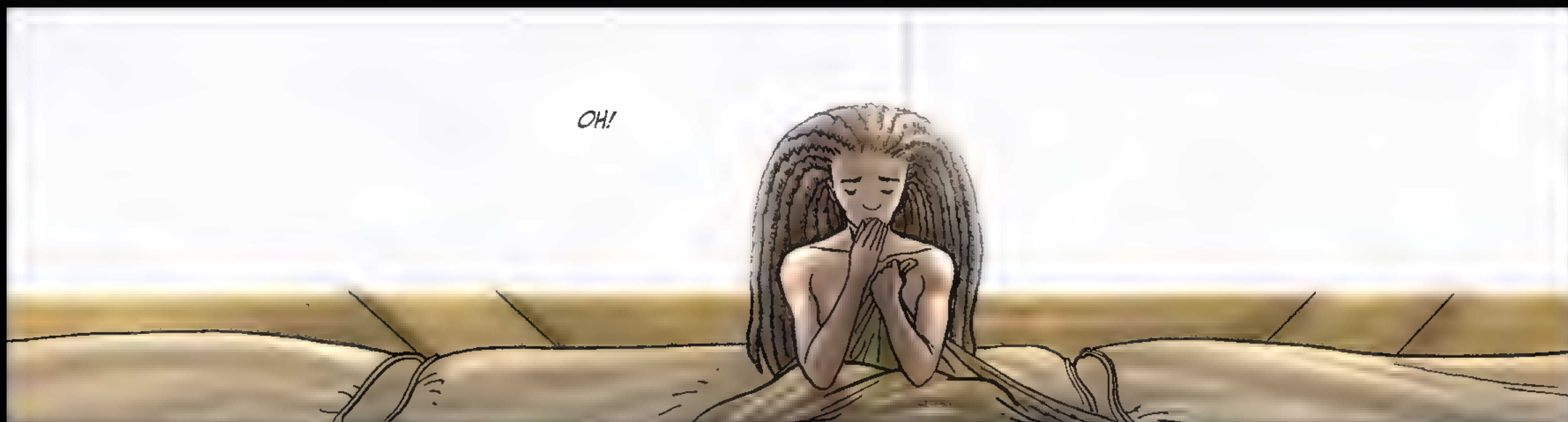






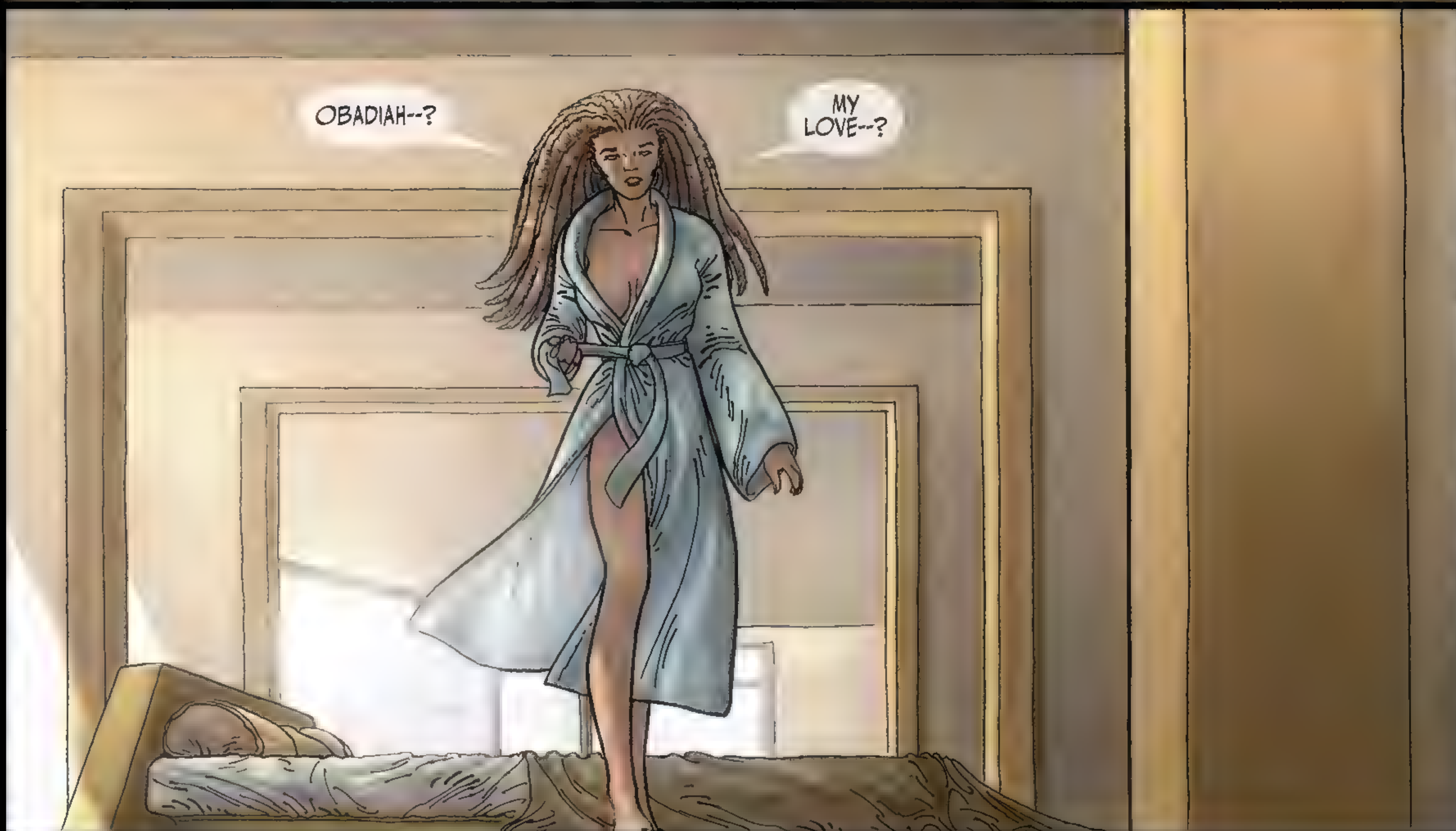


OH!




OBADIAH--?

MY  
LOVE--?







THIS DOES  
NOT SOUND LIKE  
GOOD NEWS, MISTER  
PURCHASE.

I HOPE,  
FOR YOUR SAKE,  
THAT THIS INTERRUPTION  
OF MY SCHEDULE IS  
NOT WITHOUT JUST  
CAUSE.

I AM  
QUITE CERTAIN,  
MISTER HORN, THAT  
THIS IS SOMETHING  
YOU WILL WANT TO...  
LOOK INTO  
YOURSELF.





SAHARA...  
I AM *SORRY*,  
MY DEAR...

THERE IS  
SOME BUSINESS  
I MUST TO ATTEND  
TO, URGENTLY.

SLEEP SOME  
MORE...

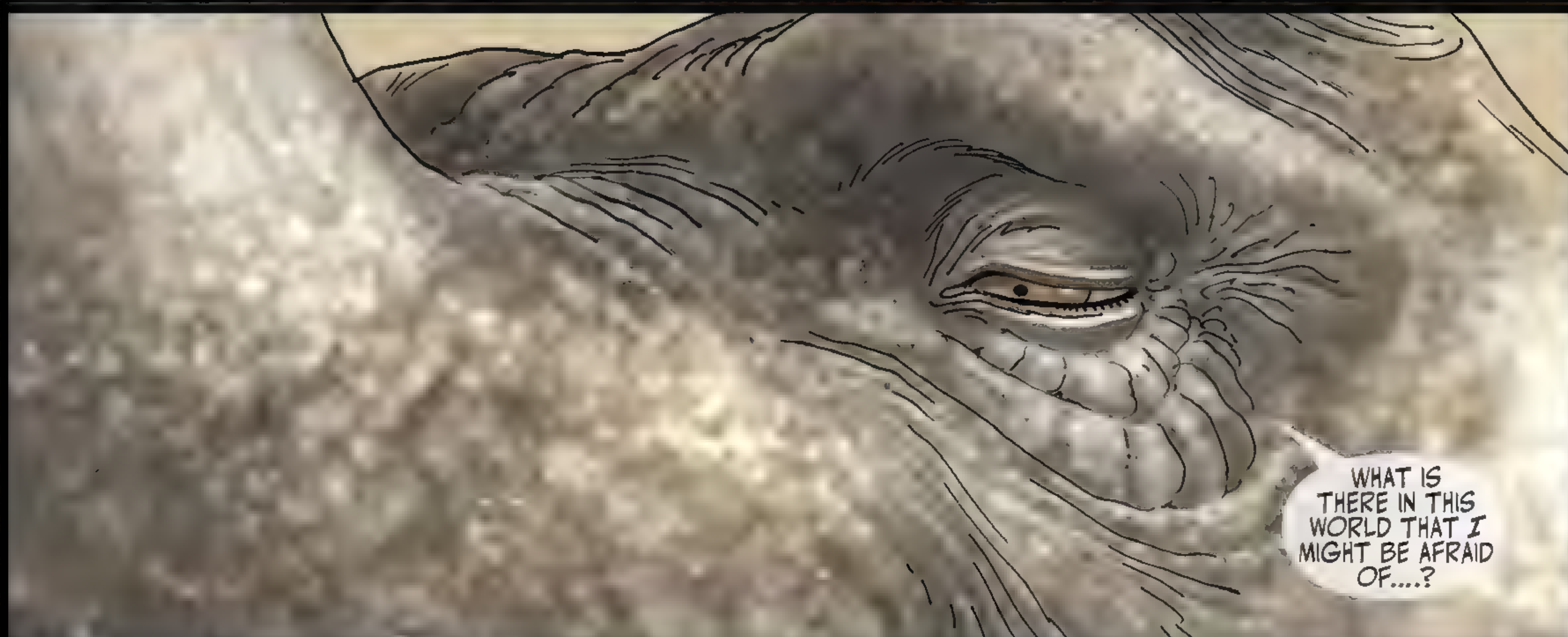


OBADIAH,  
PLEASE, STAY  
*HERE* TODAY.

YOU'RE  
DISTURBED.  
I... I CAN'T  
SLEEP.

I'M  
AFRAID FOR  
YOU...

SAHARA...  
MY DARLING...  
*LOOK AT*  
ME...



WHAT IS  
THERE IN THIS  
WORLD THAT *I*  
MIGHT BE AFRAID  
OF....?





# LONG BEACH SEAPORT

WHO DID THIS?



WHO?



WHY DO I ASK?

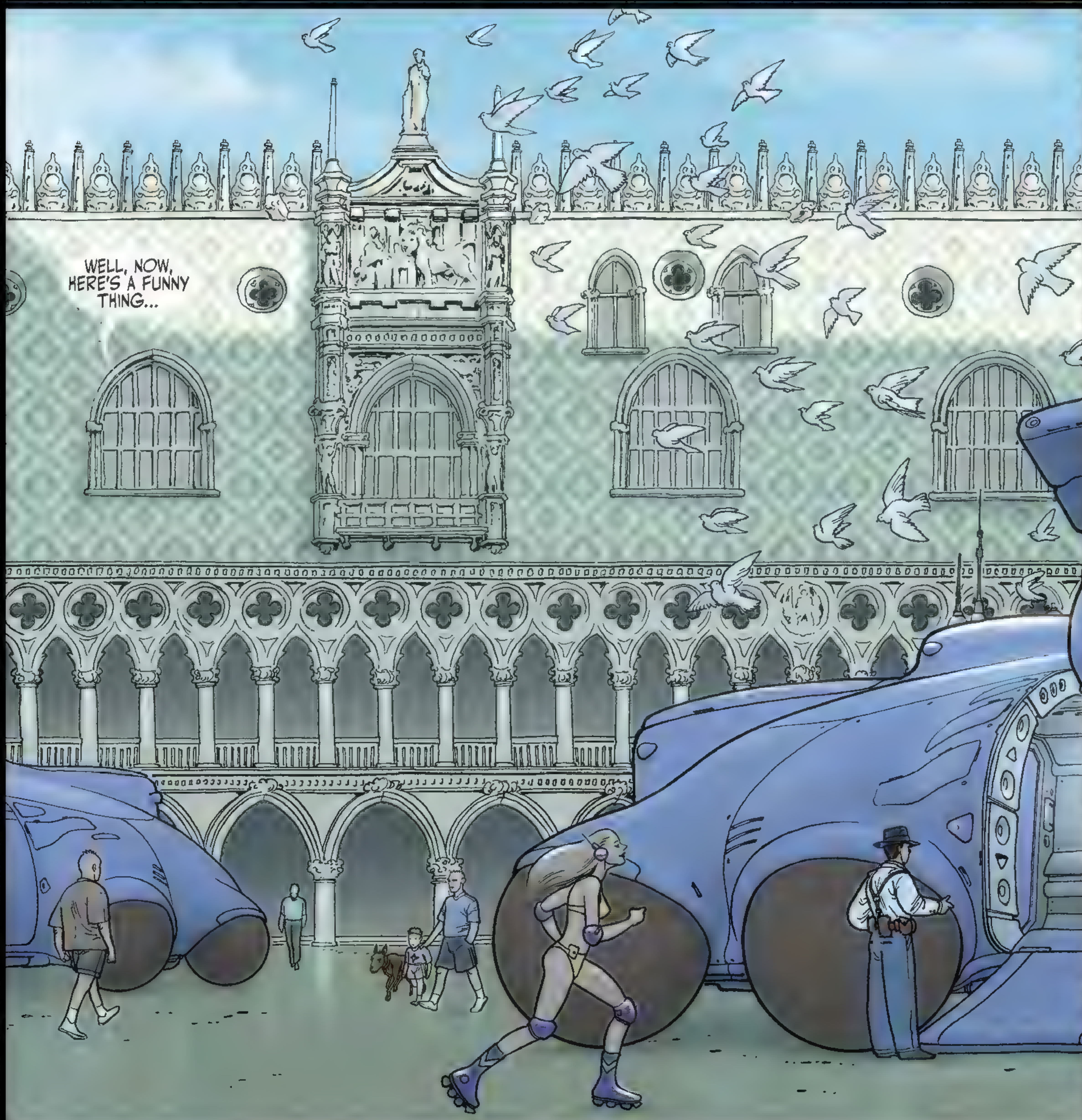
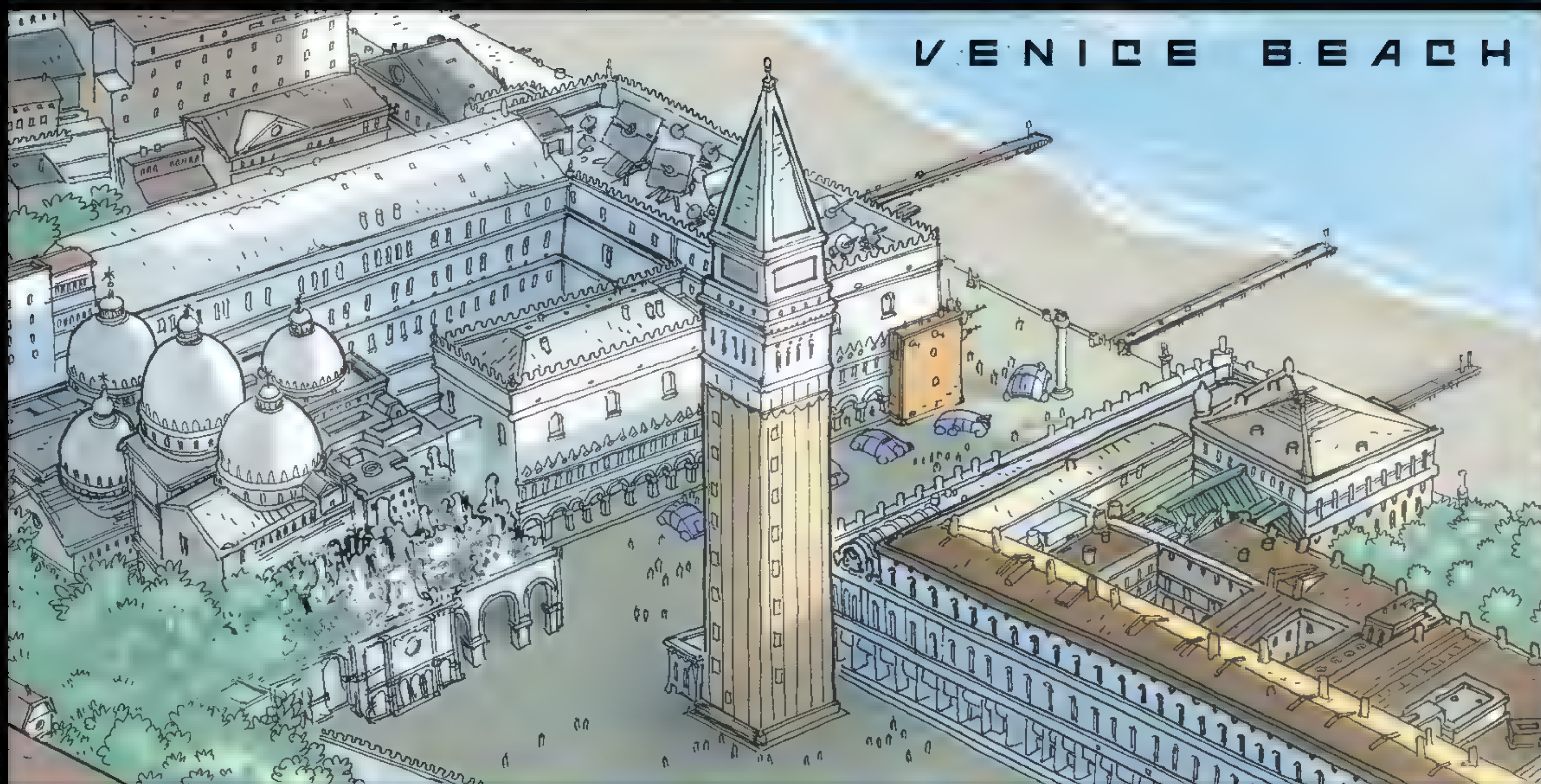
THIS BUTCHERY CARRIES ONE SIGNATURE.



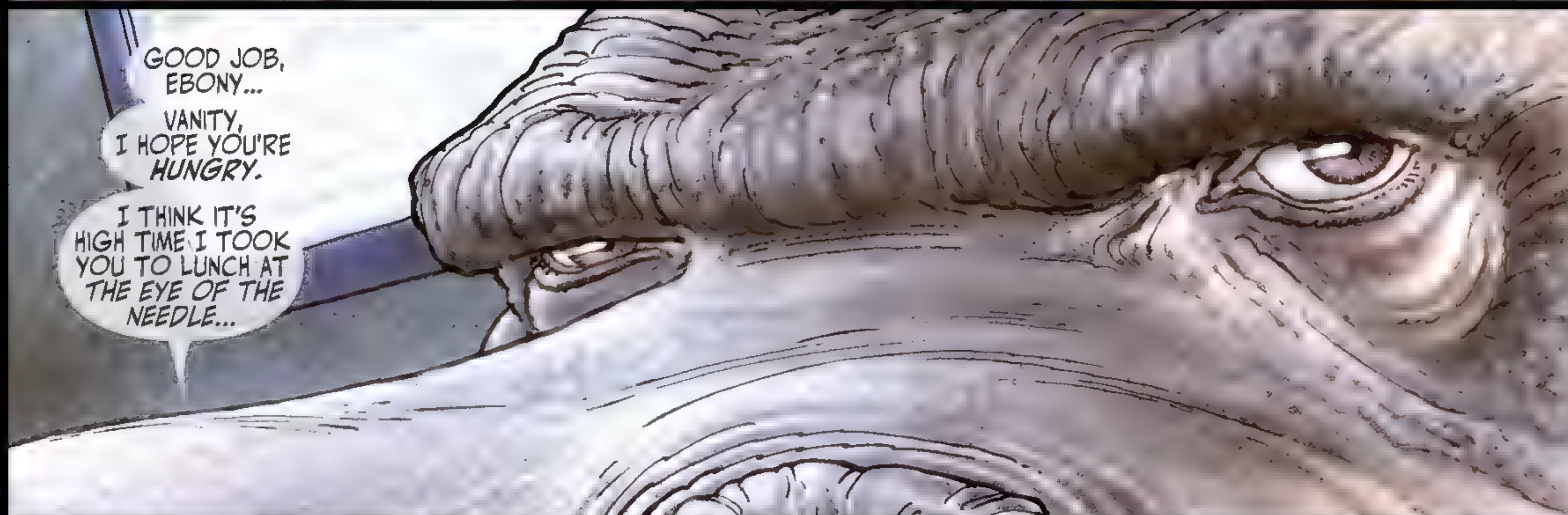
IMMEDIATE RETALIATION.  
SWIFT AND BRUTAL.

MY PLEASURE.



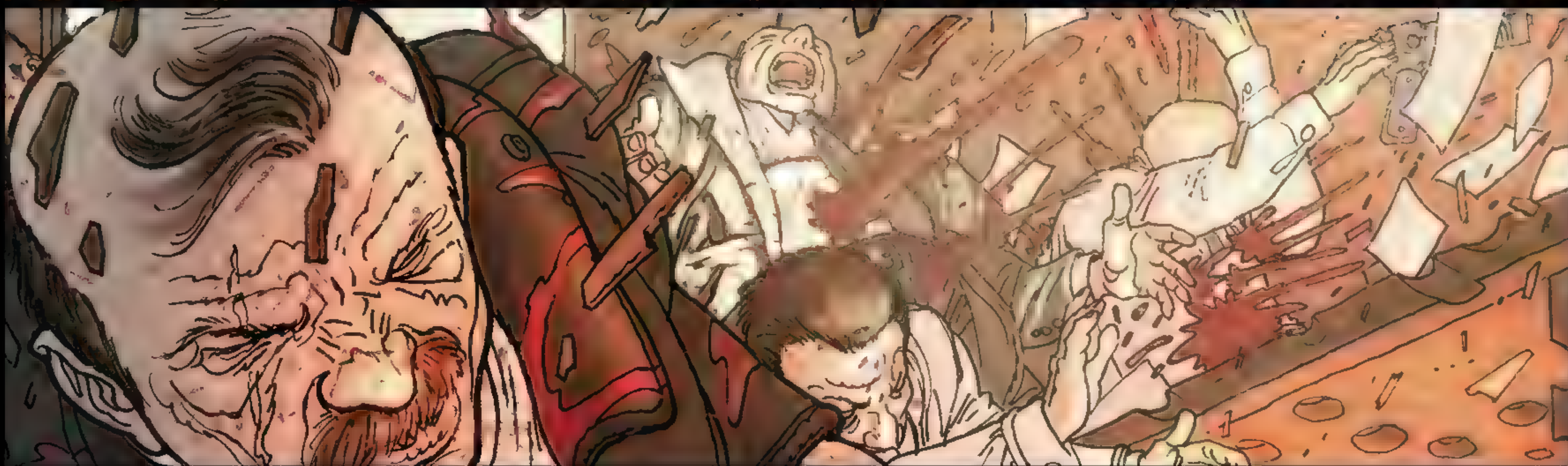
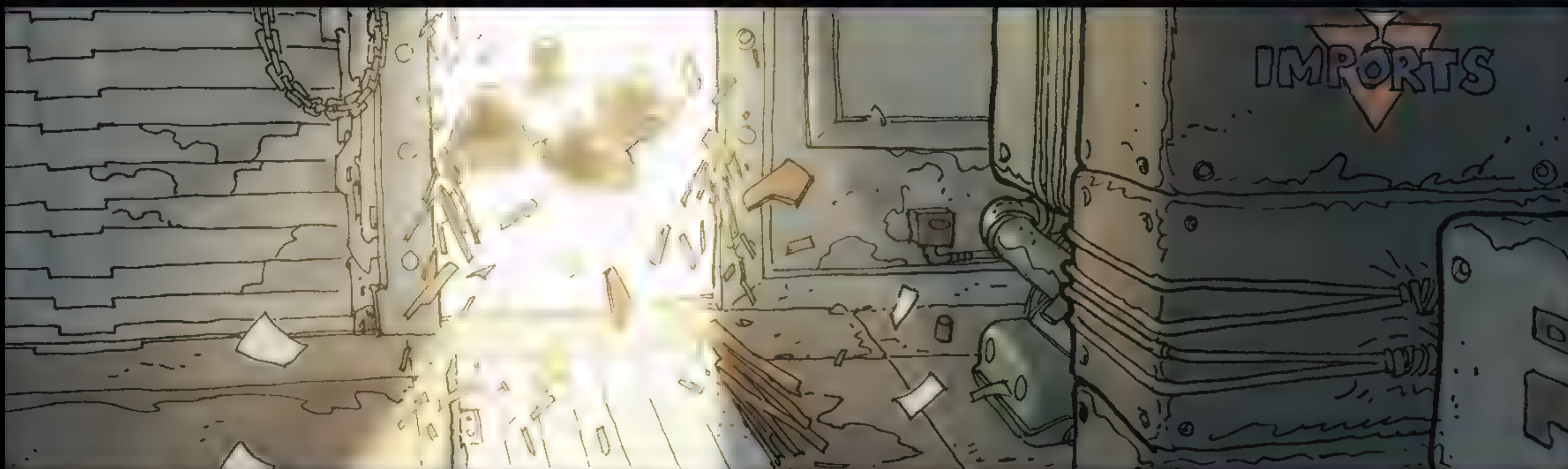




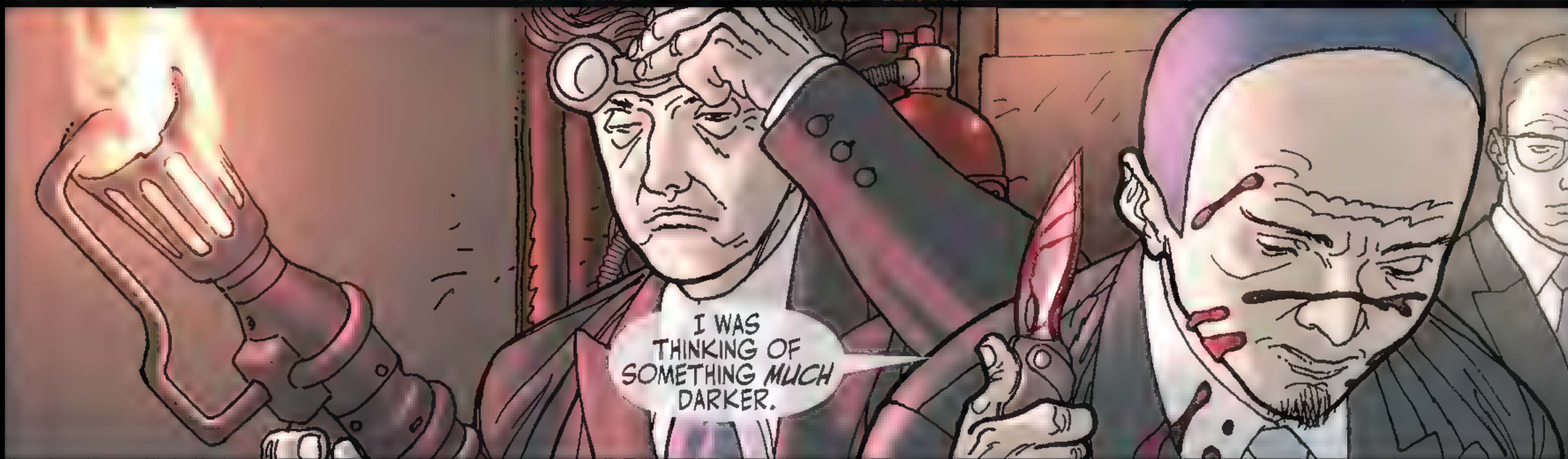
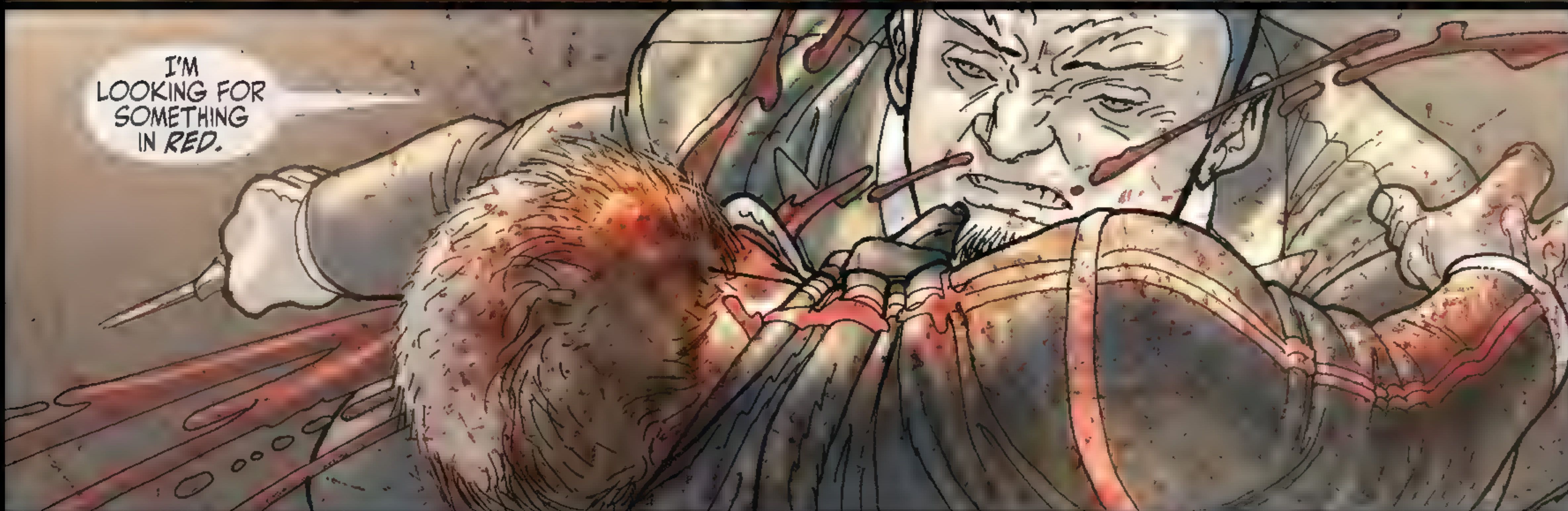
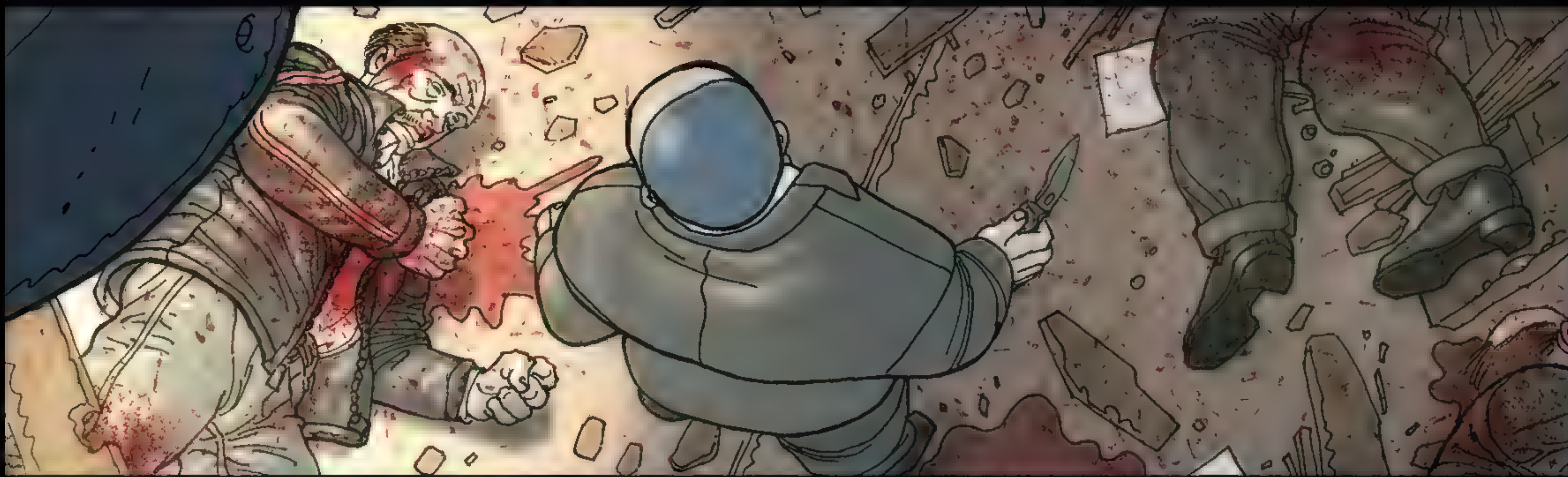




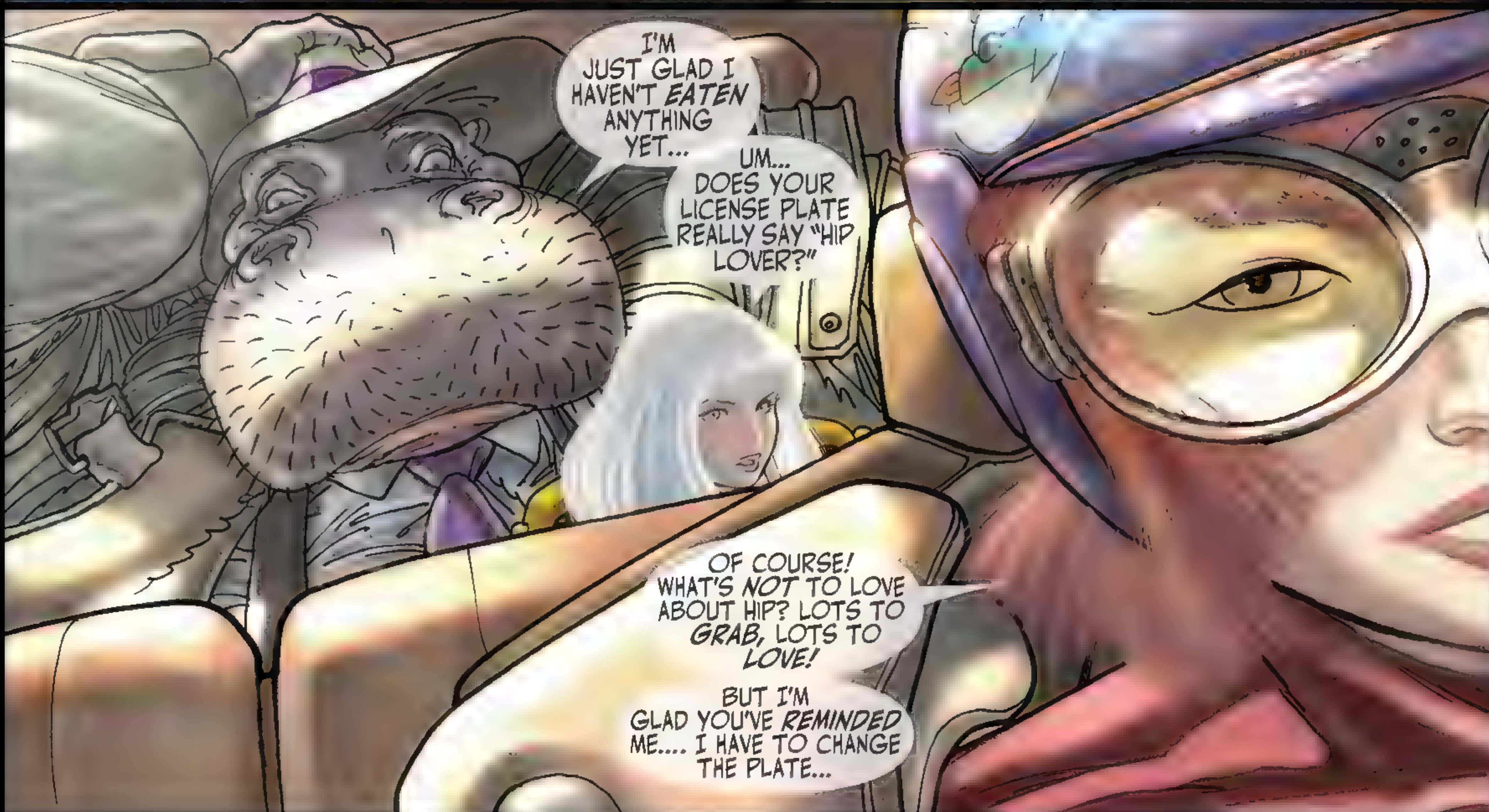
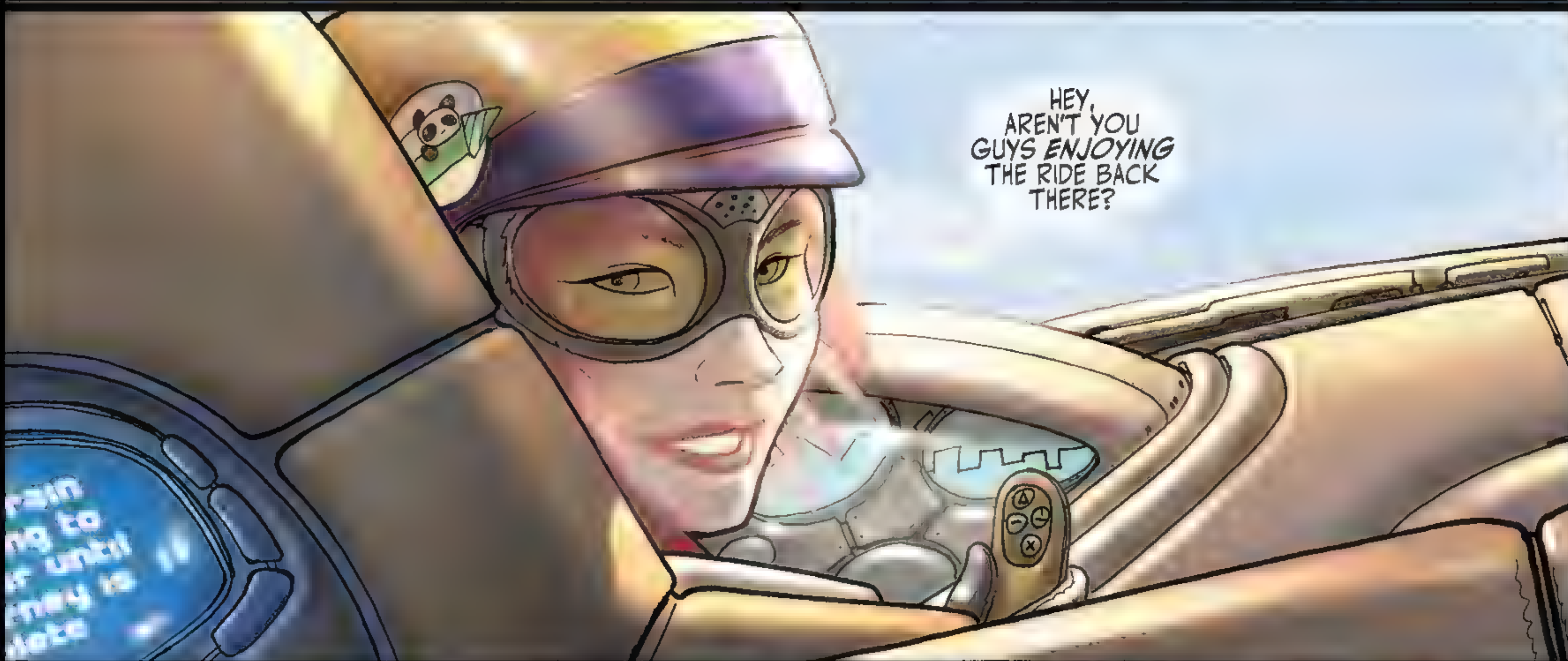
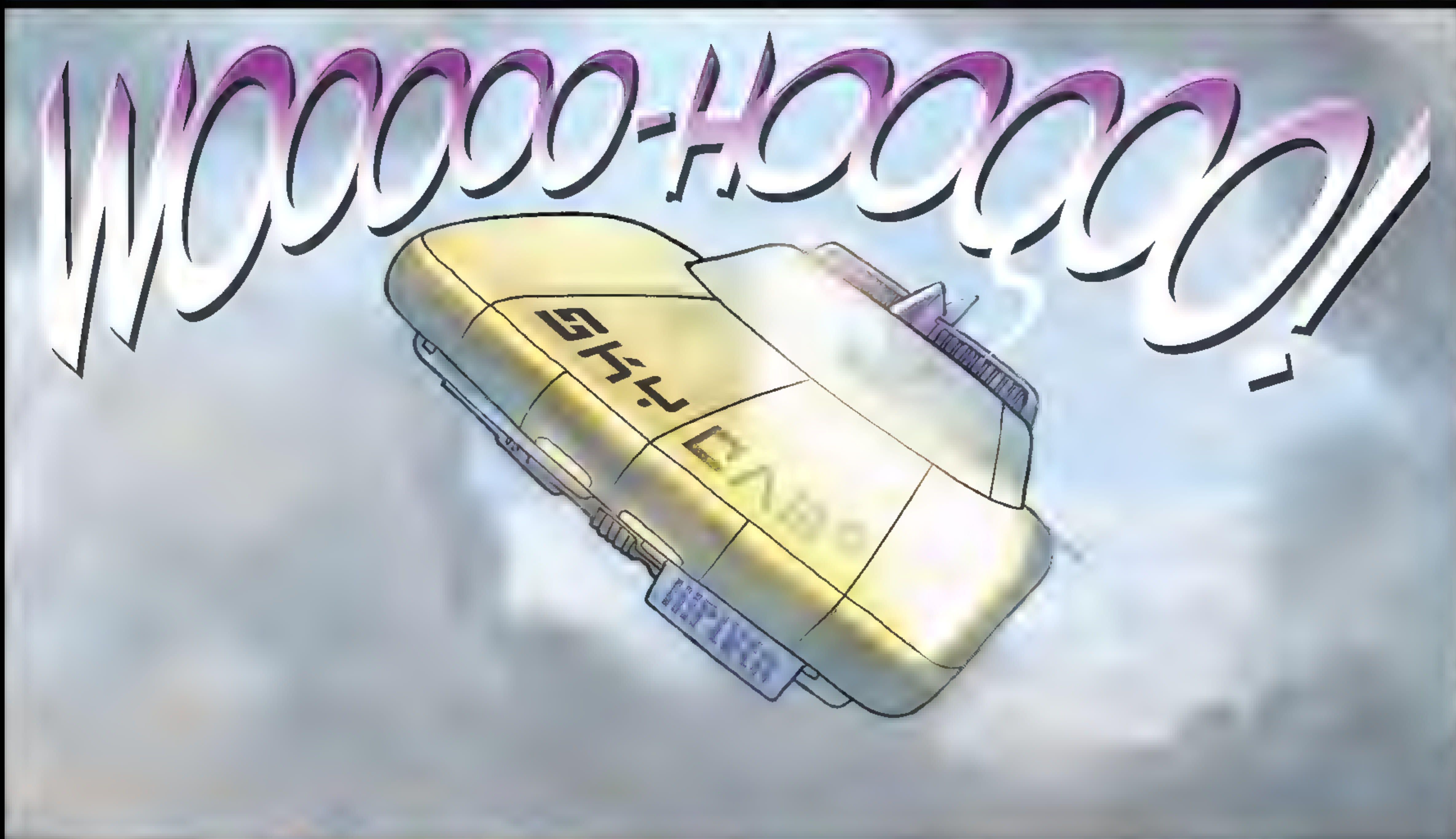
# THE DOCKS · LONG BEACH



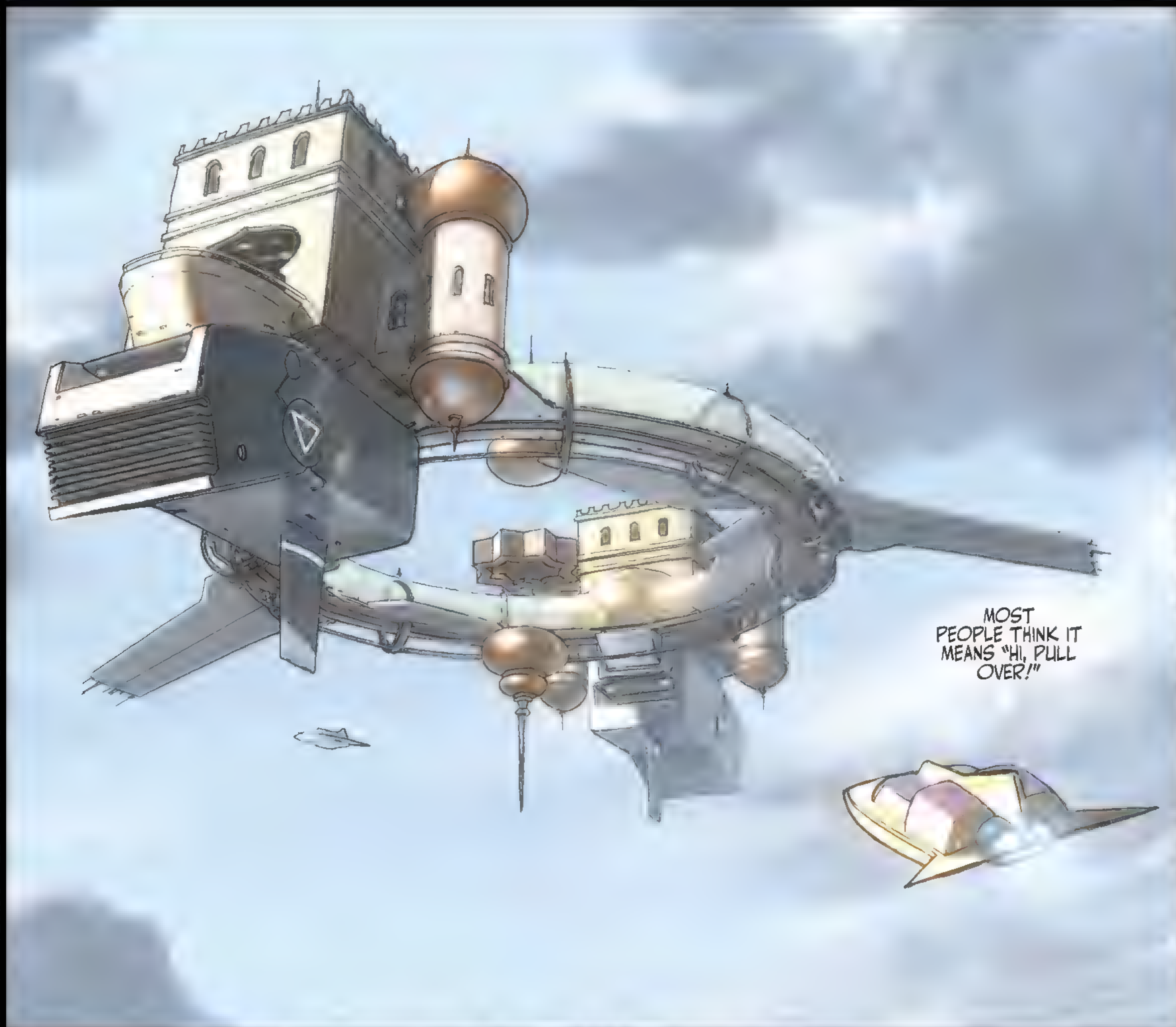












MOST  
PEOPLE THINK IT  
MEANS "HI, PULL  
OVER!"



TAKE  
YOUR TIME,  
GUYS! GOTTA  
USE THE  
LADIES!





HIERONYMOUS...



TO  
WHAT DO I OWE  
THIS UNEXPECTED  
PLEASURE?



THIS IS NOT  
A SOCIAL CALL,  
JOE.

SEEMS LIKE  
YOU'VE GOT A CAR  
IN YOUR LOT...  
ONE THAT'S HAS NO  
RIGHT TO BE HERE...  
OR NO RIGHT TO BE  
SOMEWHERE  
ELSE.

ITS I.D.  
MATCHES THIS  
ONE.



WE'RE TRYING  
TO FIND OUT WHO  
IT BELONGS  
TO.





I'LL BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO HELP...



CARLOS, TAKE MY FRIEND HERE DOWN TO THE PARKING AREA.



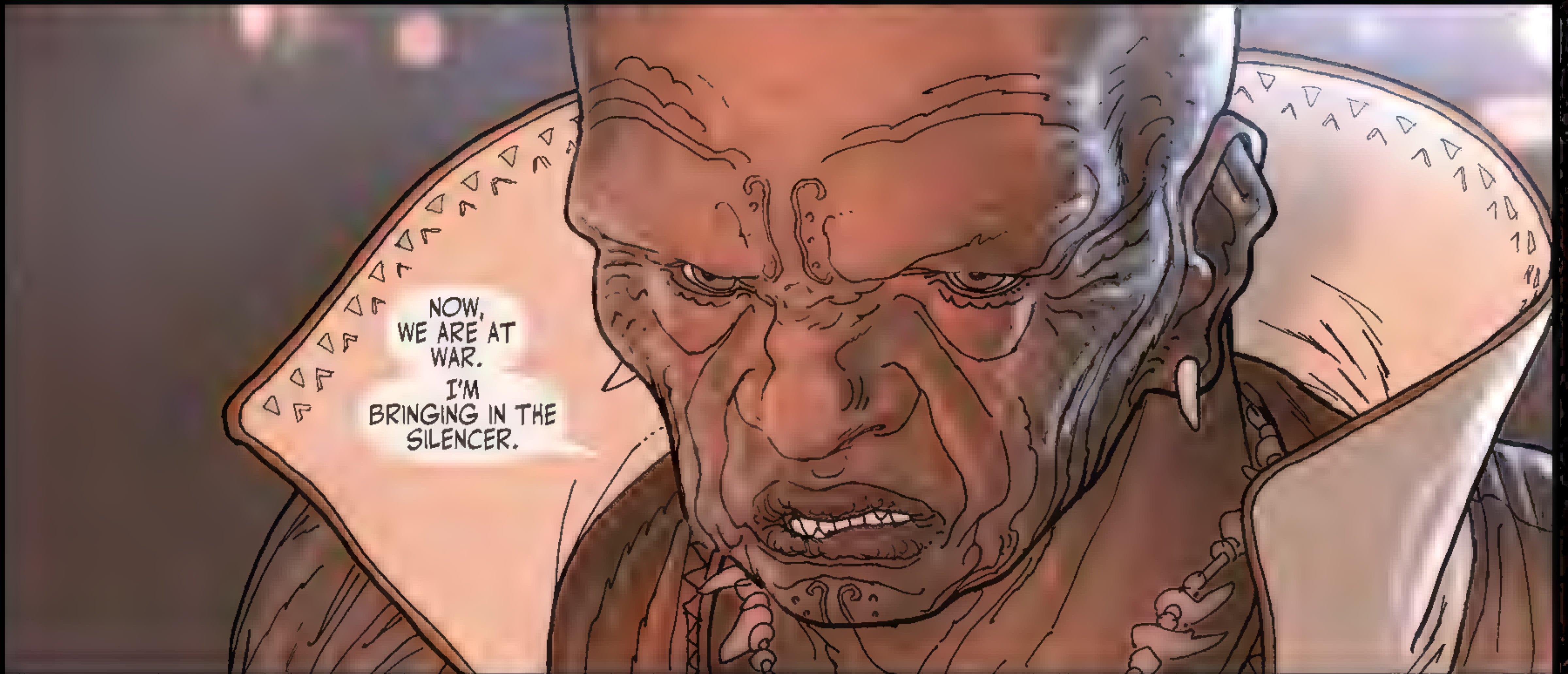
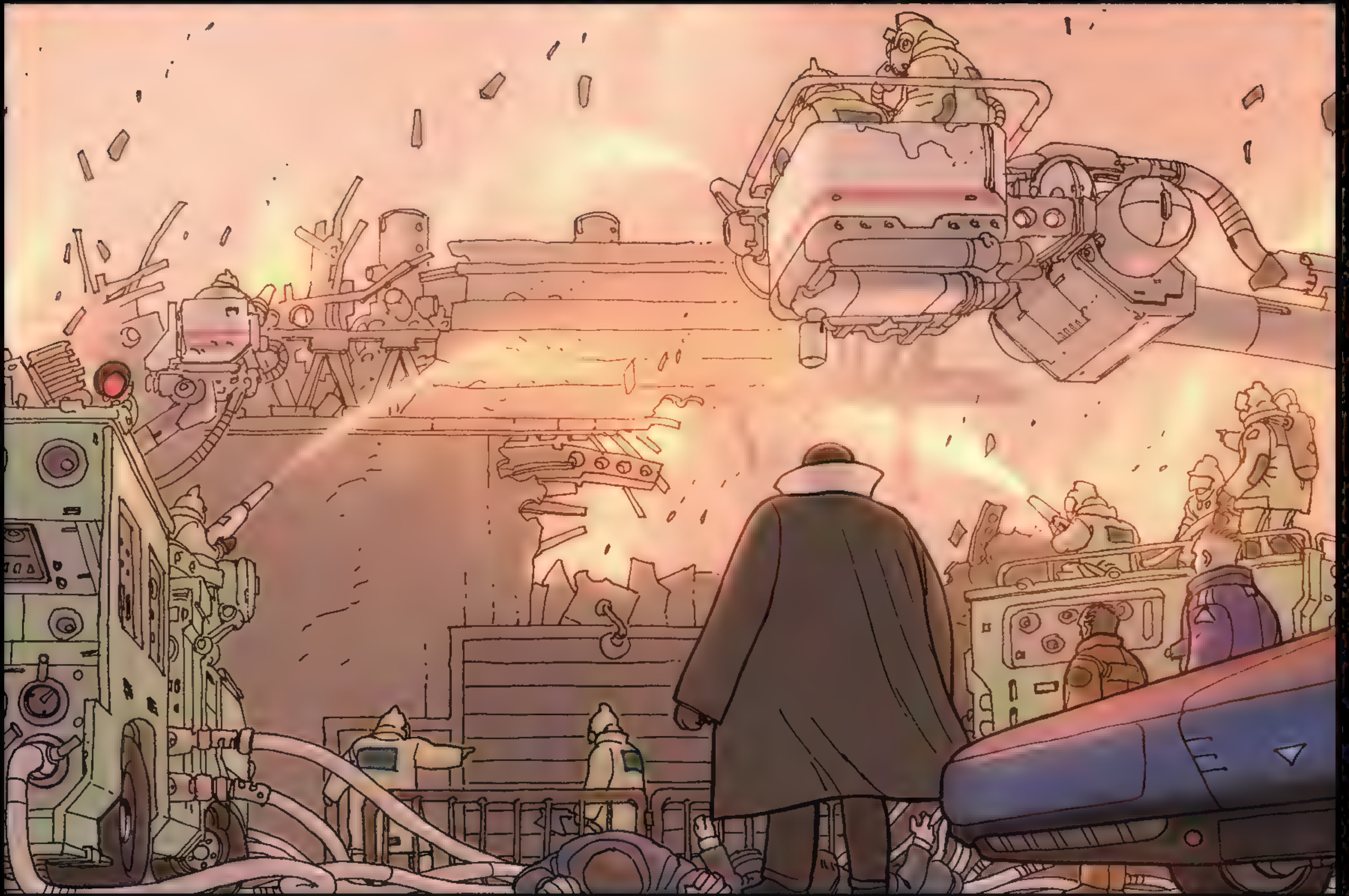
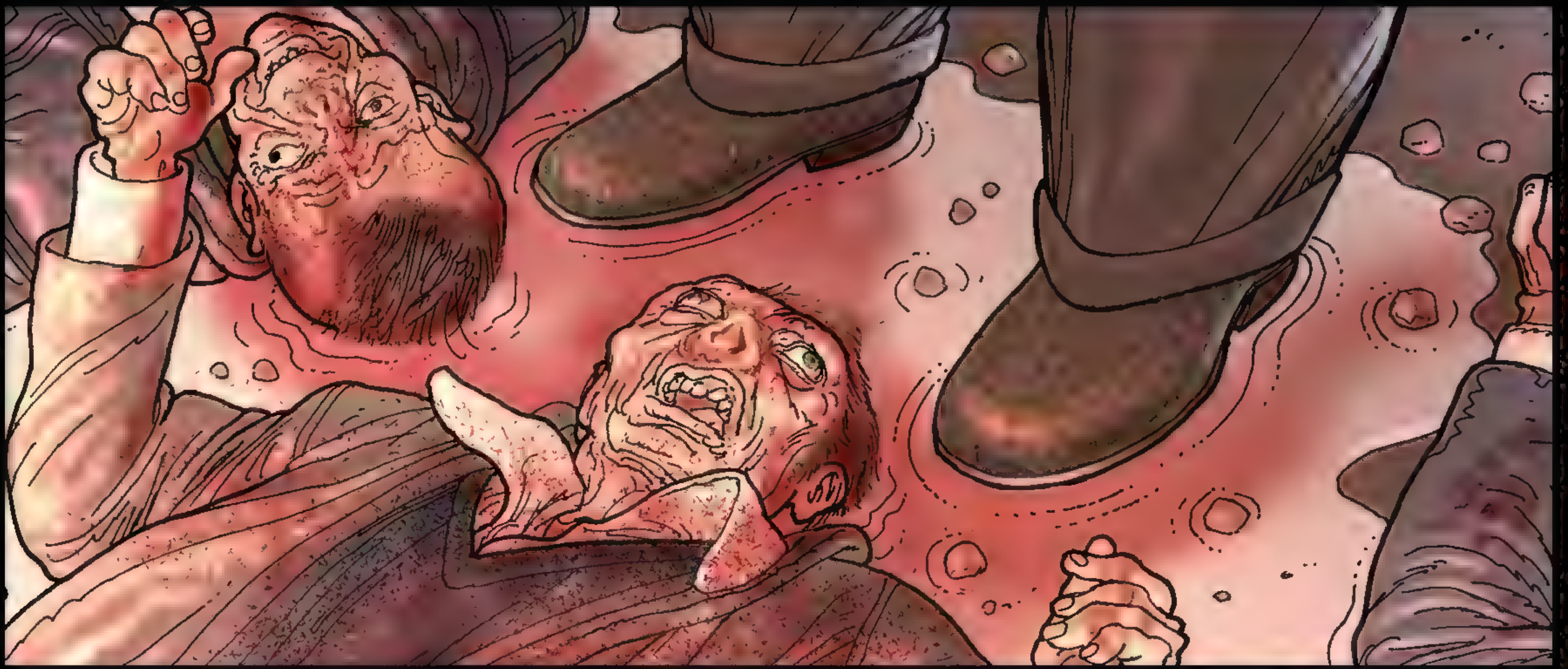
YOU GUYS DON'T CHIT-CHAT MUCH, DO YOU?

OF COURSE NOT.

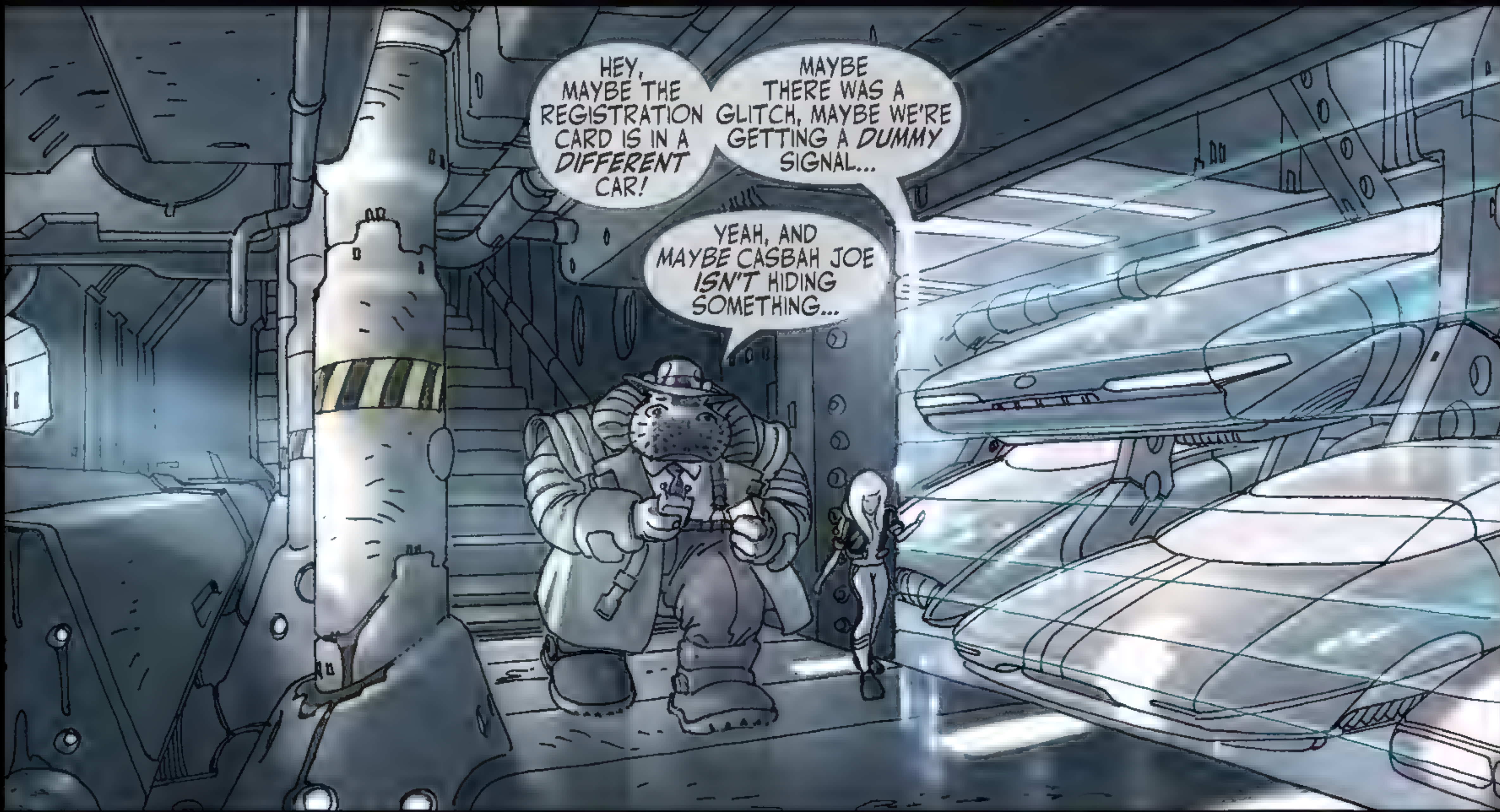


IF WE WANT TO REMINISCE, WE JUST LOOK IN THE MIRROR.





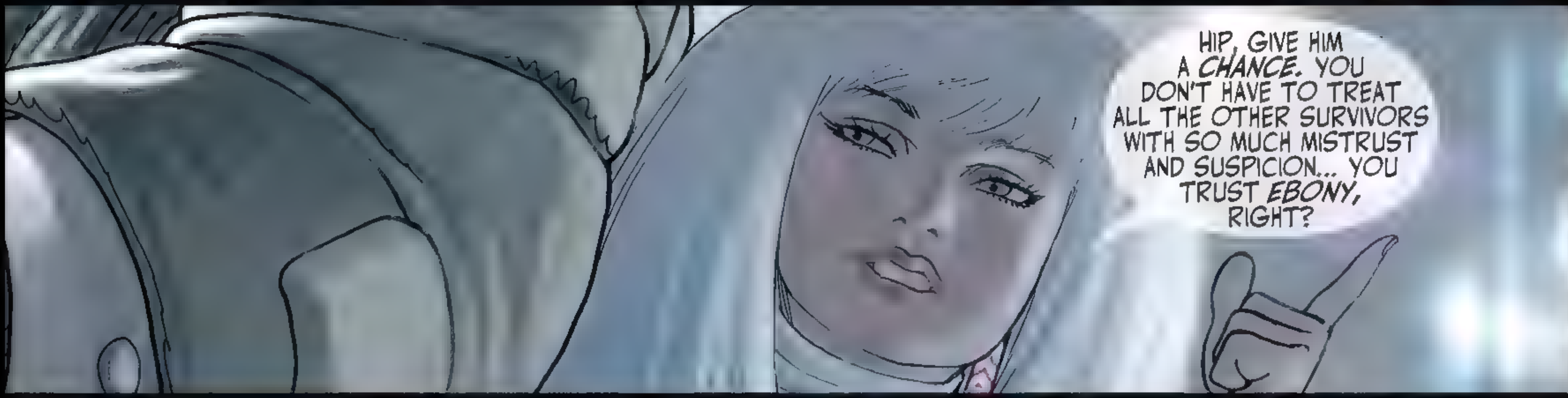




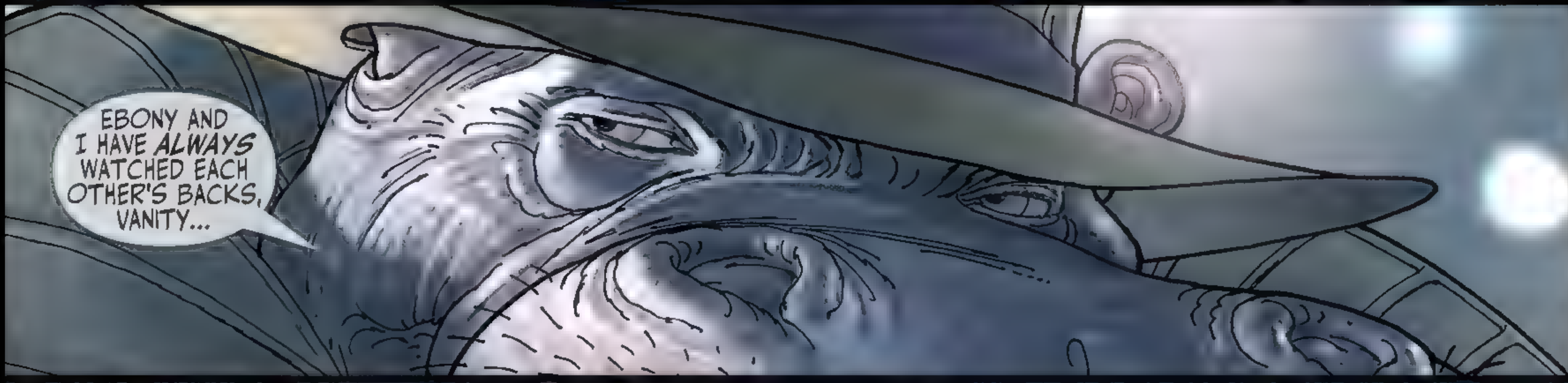
HEY,  
MAYBE THE  
REGISTRATION  
CARD IS IN A  
DIFFERENT  
CAR!

MAYBE  
THERE WAS A  
GLITCH, MAYBE WE'RE  
GETTING A DUMMY  
SIGNAL...

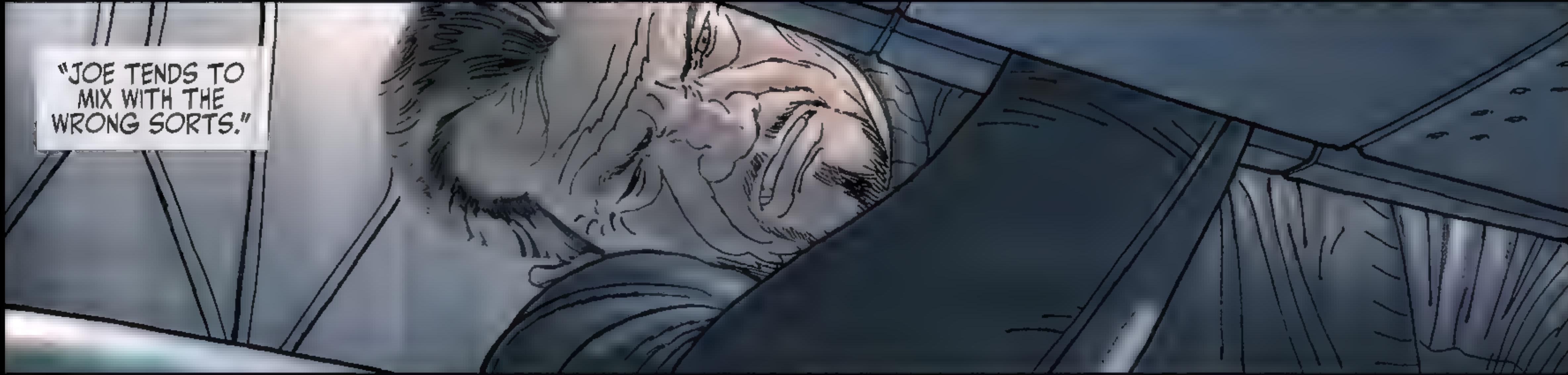
YEAH, AND  
MAYBE CASBAH JOE  
ISN'T HIDING  
SOMETHING...



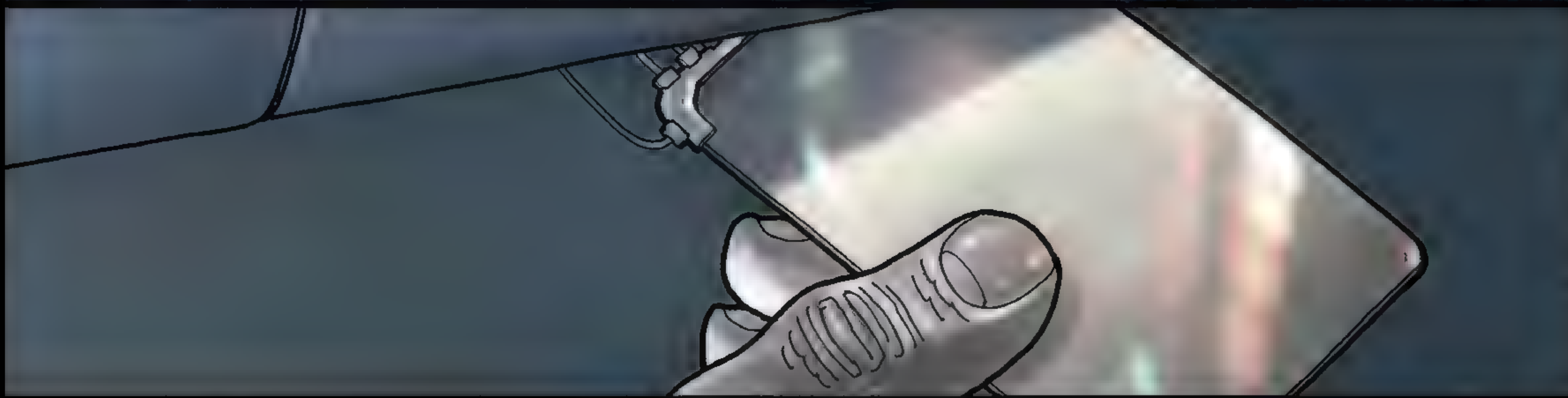
HIP, GIVE HIM  
A CHANCE. YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO TREAT  
ALL THE OTHER SURVIVORS  
WITH SO MUCH MISTRUST  
AND SUSPICION... YOU  
TRUST EBONY,  
RIGHT?



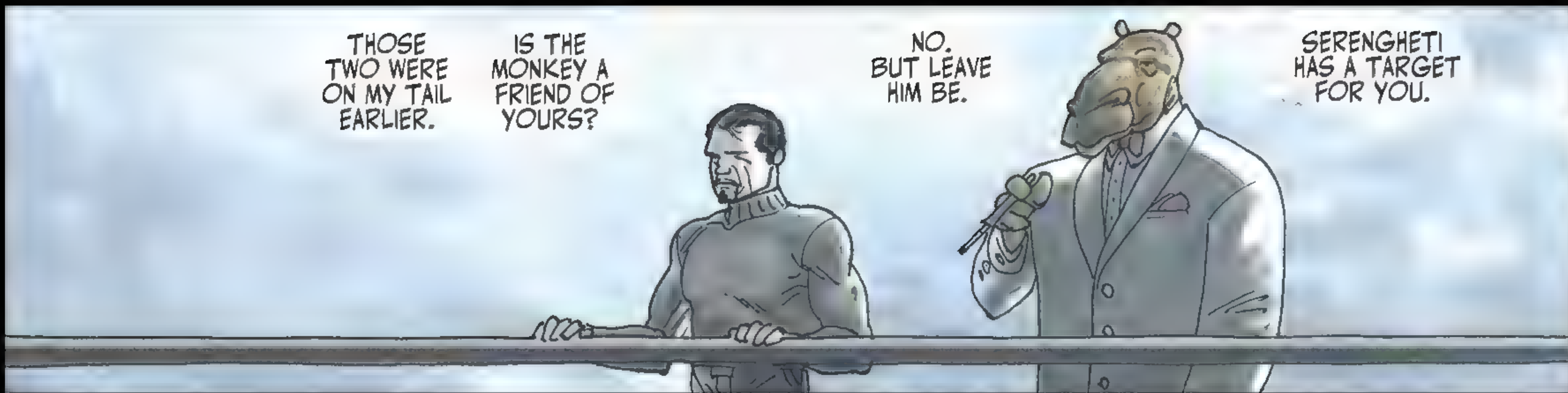
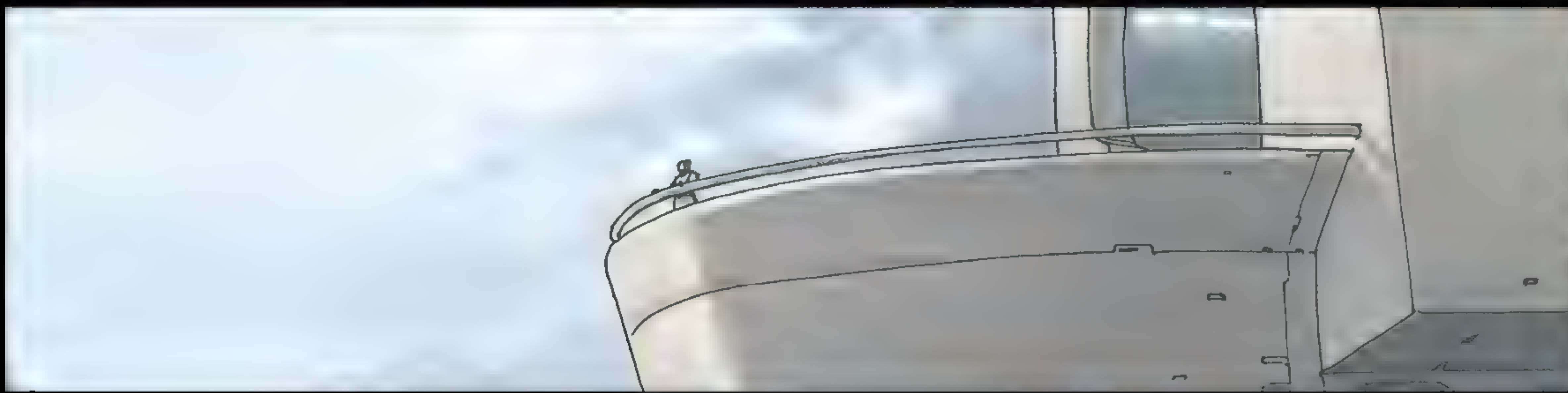
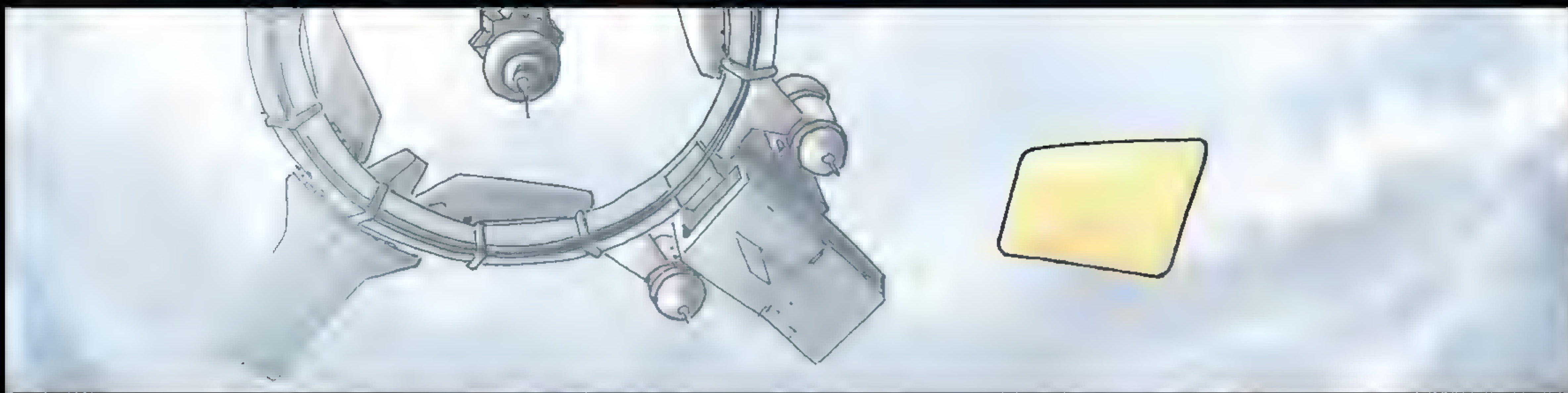
EBONY AND  
I HAVE ALWAYS  
WATCHED EACH  
OTHER'S BACKS,  
VANITY...



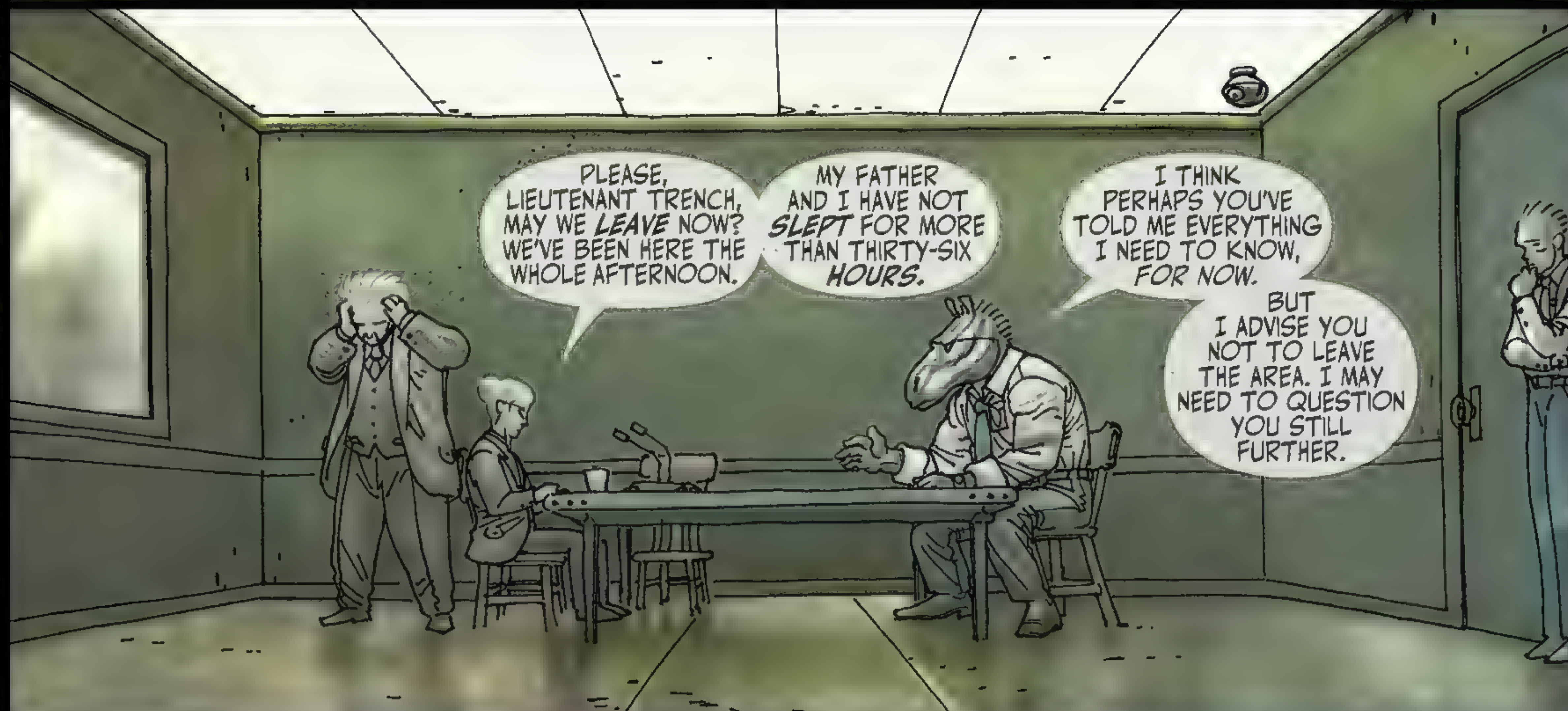
"JOE TENDS TO  
MIX WITH THE  
WRONG SORTS."











PLEASE, LIEUTENANT TRENCH, MAY WE **LEAVE** NOW? WE'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE AFTERNOON.

MY FATHER AND I HAVE NOT **SLEPT** FOR MORE THAN THIRTY-SIX HOURS.

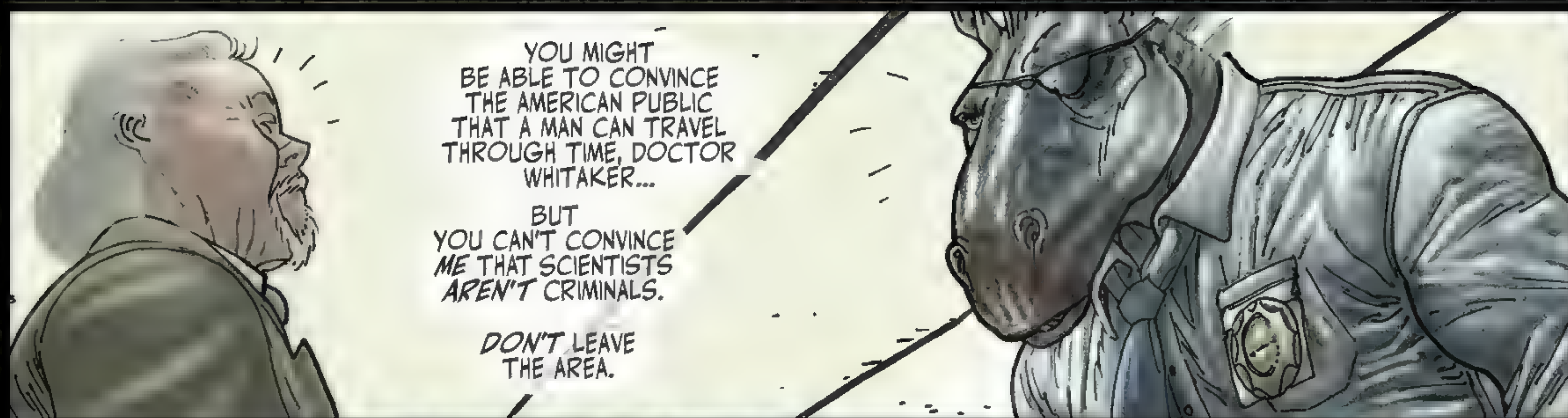
I THINK PERHAPS YOU'VE TOLD ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, FOR NOW.

BUT I ADVISE YOU NOT TO LEAVE THE AREA. I MAY NEED TO QUESTION YOU STILL FURTHER.



OF COURSE WE WON'T LEAVE THE AREA!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAN, WE'RE SCIENTISTS NOT CRIMINALS!



YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT A MAN CAN TRAVEL THROUGH TIME, DOCTOR WHITAKER...

BUT YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME THAT SCIENTISTS AREN'T CRIMINALS.

DON'T LEAVE THE AREA.



ONE LAST QUESTION, MISS LAMBERT.

I KNOW THAT THE BAVERSTOCK FOUNDATION FINANCES YOUR WORK...

...BUT WHO FINANCES THE FOUNDATION?

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE OF WEALTH WHO BELIEVE IN SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS, LIEUTENANT. I SUGGEST YOU LOOK THEM UP IN WHO'S WHO.



OH, YEAH...

..."PROGRESS."





SERENGHETI  
MAY BE RASH BUT  
WE CANNOT AFFORD  
TO TAKE HIM FOR  
A FOOL.

HE HAS  
SUFFERED  
LOSSES, BUT HE  
WILL STRIKE  
AGAIN.

I WANT GUARDS  
ROUND THE CLOCK IN  
DOUBLE SHIFTS AT ALL  
OF OUR LOCATIONS,  
AT THE PARK AND  
AROUND THE  
DOCKS.

THIS  
MORNING'S  
SECURITY FAILURE  
MUST NOT BE  
REPEATED.



THE CITY  
IS GETTING AT  
YOU AGAIN,  
OBADIAH...

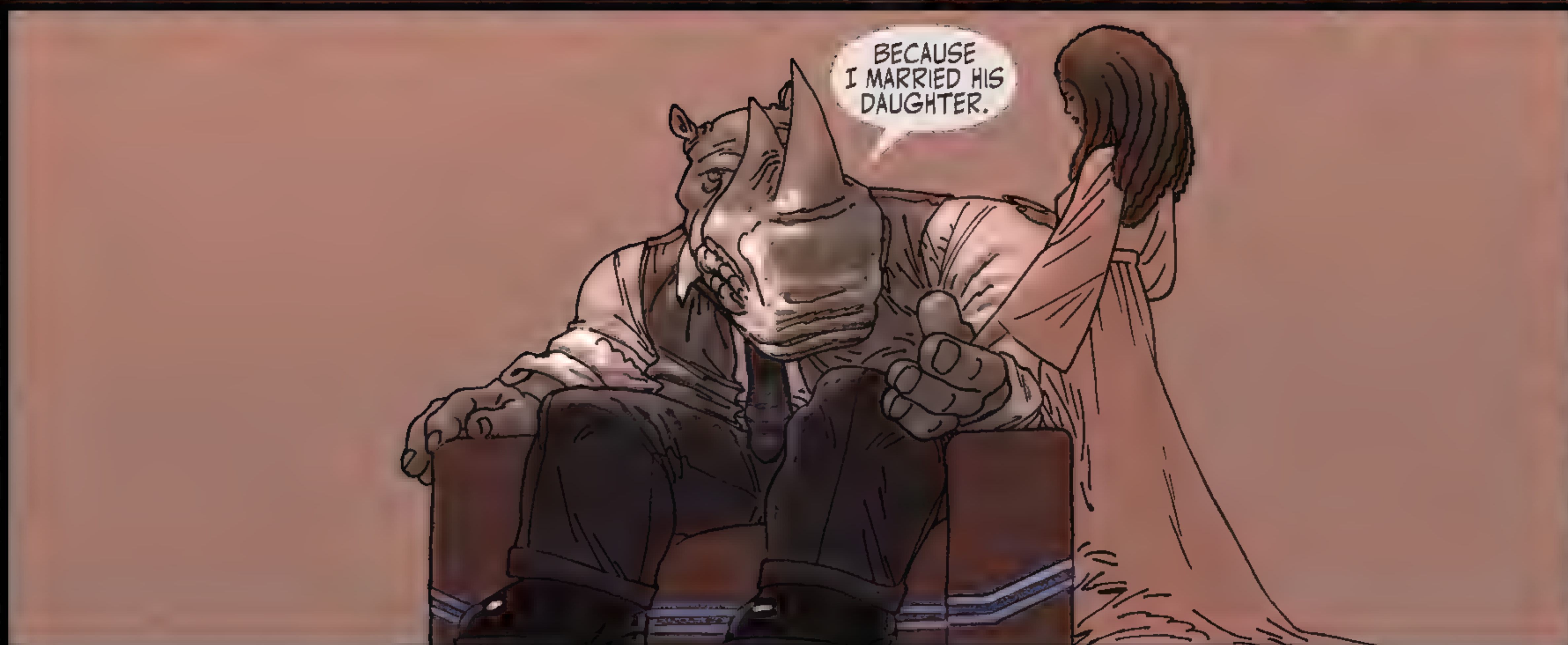
SUCH ARE  
THE WAYS OF MAN.  
THEY ADMIRE SUCCESS  
BUT AT THE SAME TIME  
HOPE TO SNATCH ITS  
FRUIT FROM YOUR  
HANDS.



SAHARA,  
SERENGHETI IS  
NOT A MAN. HE IS  
AN ANIMAL.

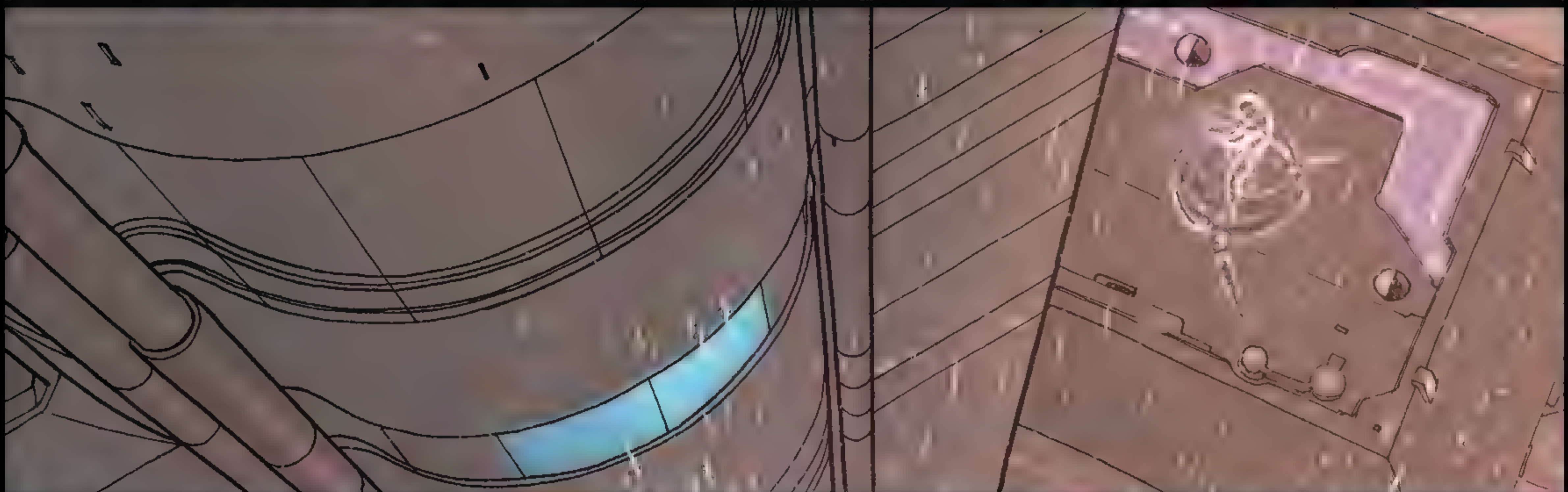
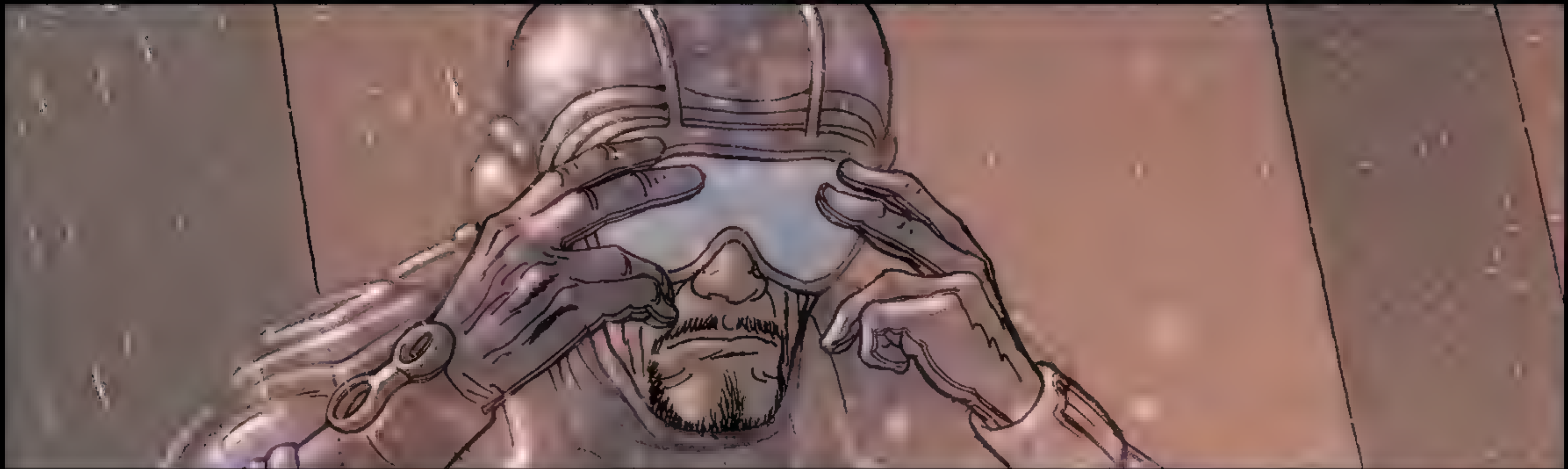
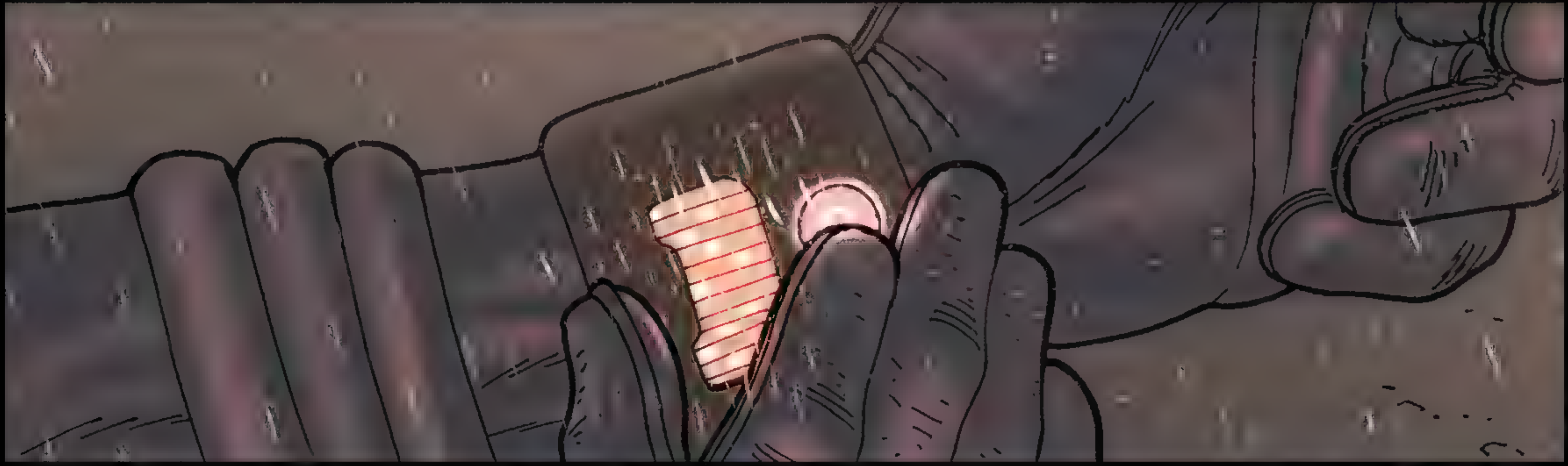
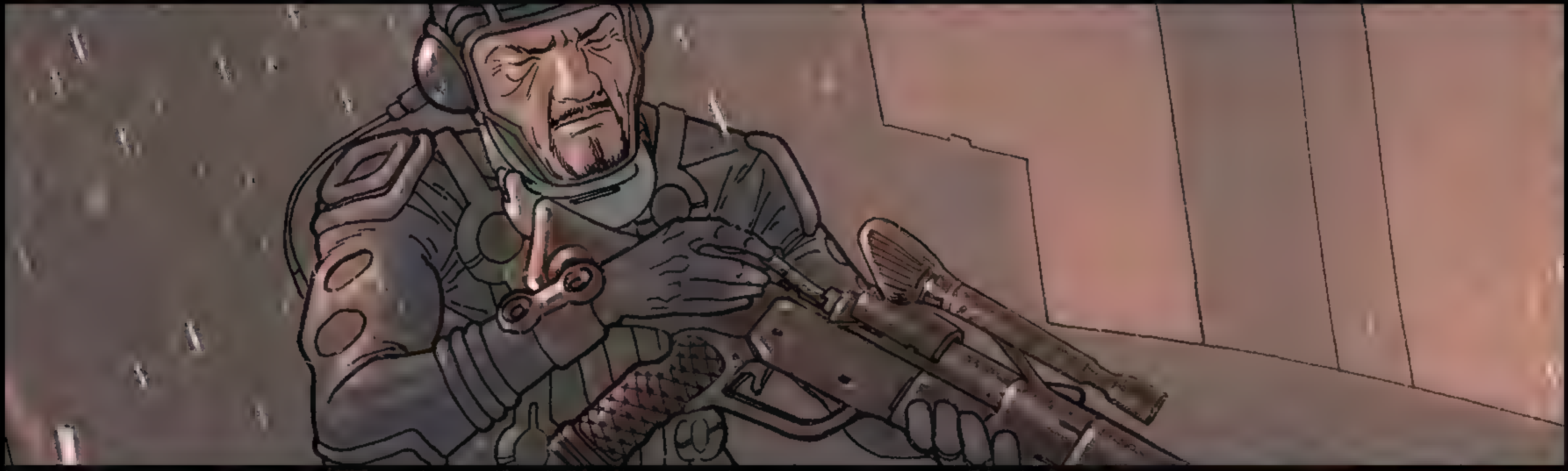
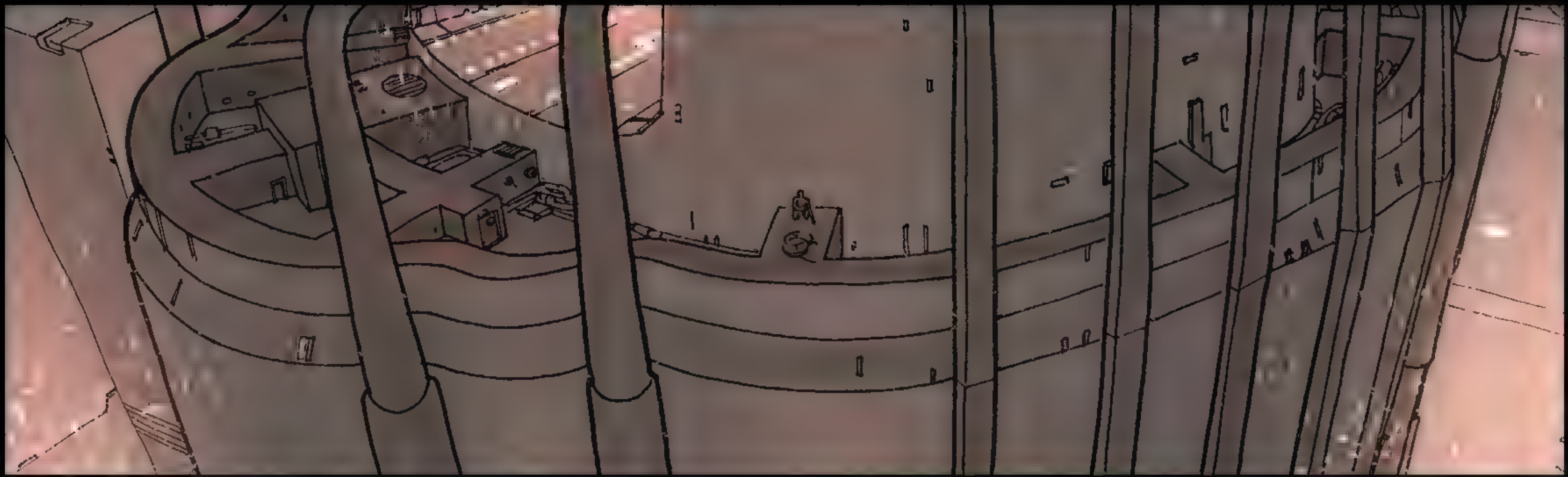
HOW CAN  
YOU BE SO SURE  
THAT THE... ATTACK  
THIS MORNING CAN  
BE ATTRIBUTED TO  
SERENGHETI?

YOU KNOW  
THE ANSWER TO  
THAT AS WELL  
AS I DO, MY  
DEAR...

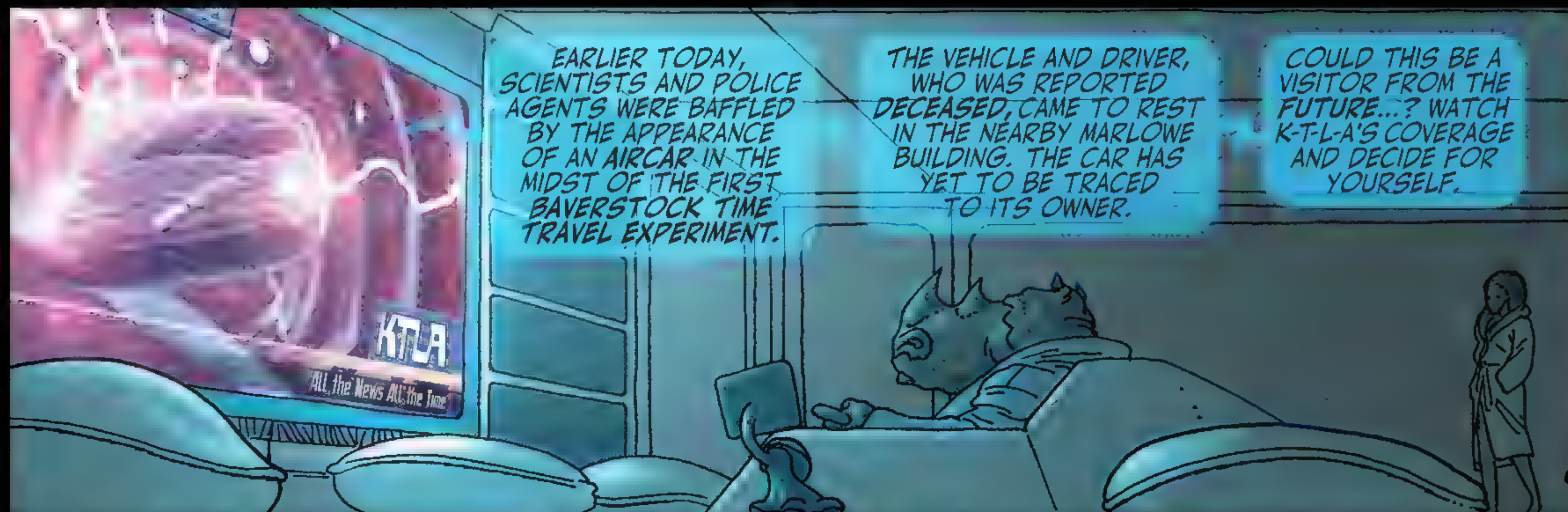


BECAUSE  
I MARRIED HIS  
DAUGHTER.









EARLIER TODAY, SCIENTISTS AND POLICE AGENTS WERE BAFFLED BY THE APPEARANCE OF AN AIRCAR IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRST BAVERSTOCK TIME TRAVEL EXPERIMENT.

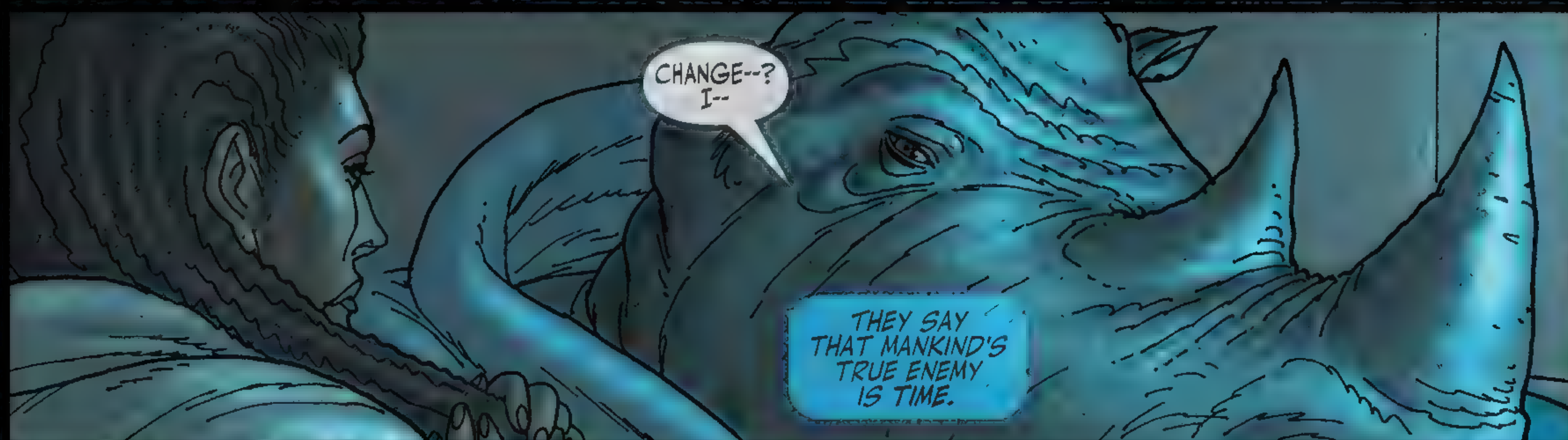
THE VEHICLE AND DRIVER, WHO WAS REPORTED DECEASED, CAME TO REST IN THE NEARBY MARLOWE BUILDING. THE CAR HAS YET TO BE TRACED TO ITS OWNER.

COULD THIS BE A VISITOR FROM THE FUTURE...? WATCH K-T-L-A'S COVERAGE AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.



TIME!  
TIME IS PERHAPS THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY OF ALL!

OBADIAH... IF YOU COULD TRAVEL BACK IN TIME, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE...?

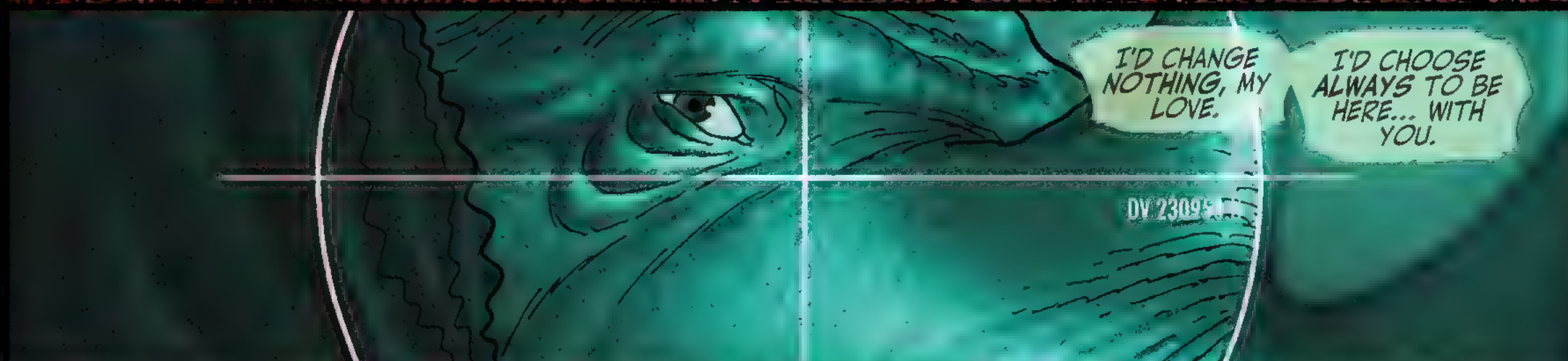


CHANGE--?  
I--

THEY SAY THAT MANKIND'S TRUE ENEMY IS TIME.



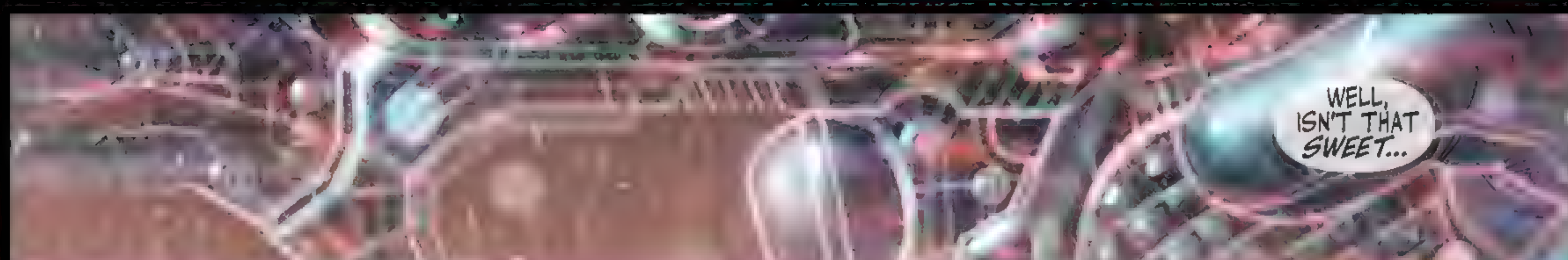
MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE AT ITS MERCY BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY TO CONTROL IT...



I'D CHANGE NOTHING, MY LOVE.

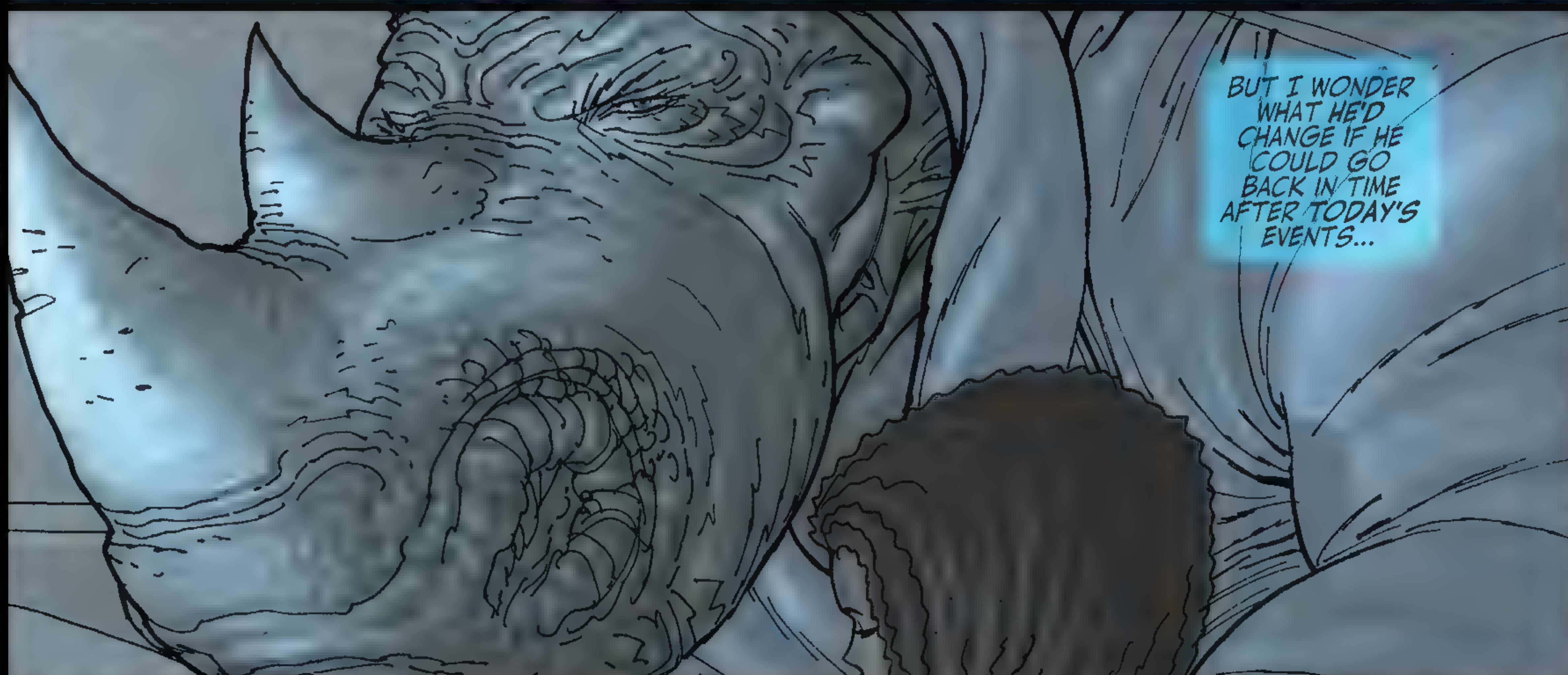
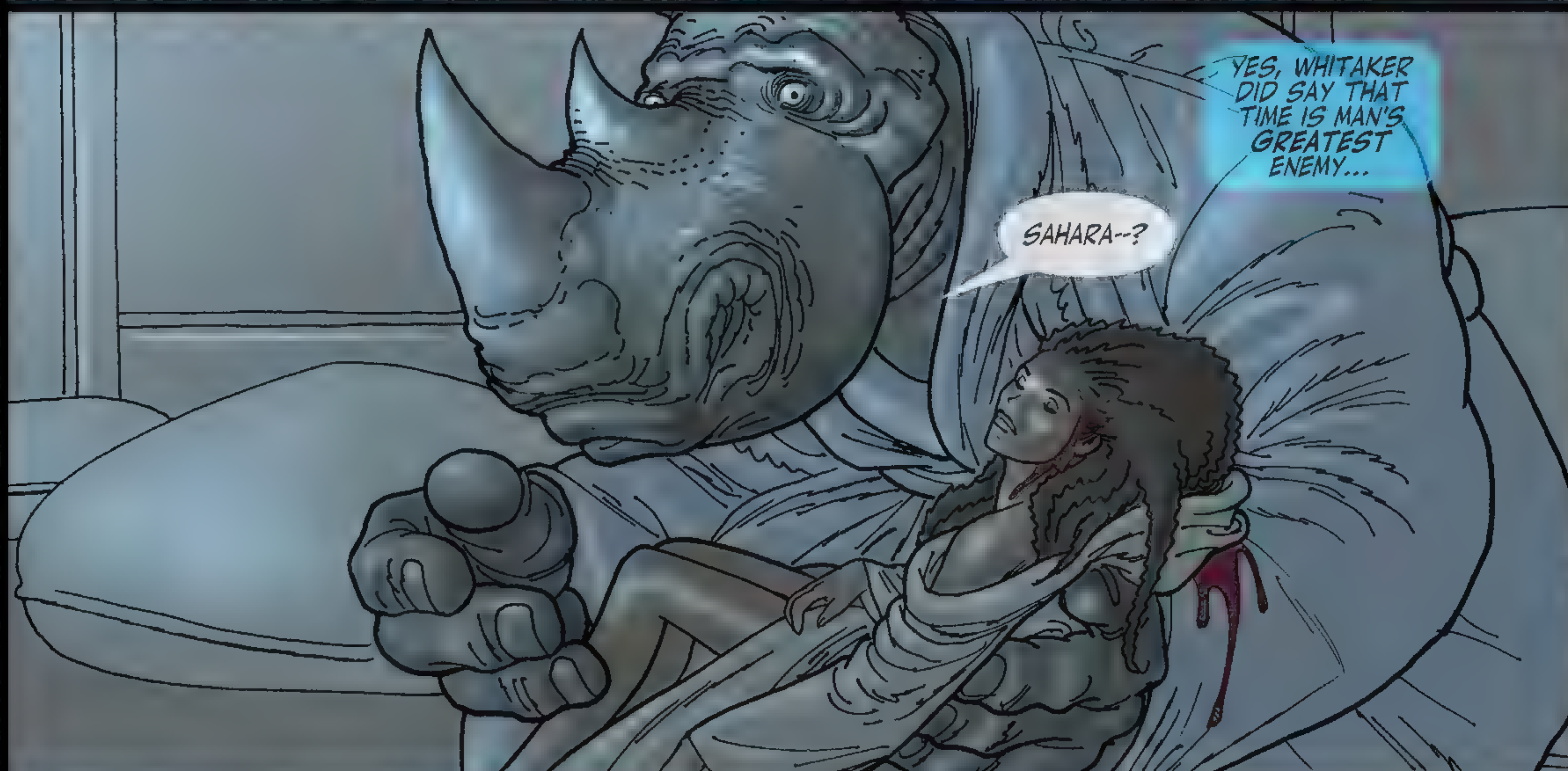
I'D CHOOSE ALWAYS TO BE HERE... WITH YOU.

DV 2309

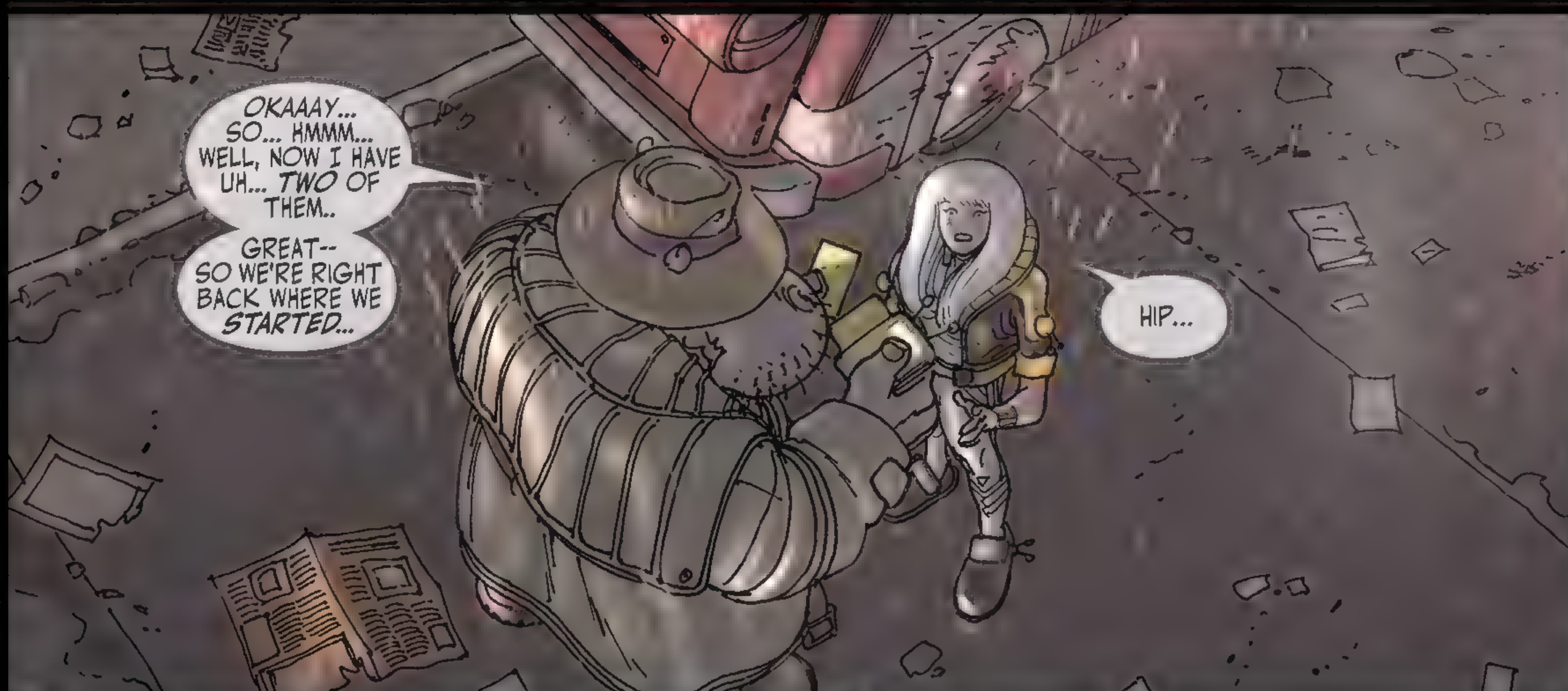
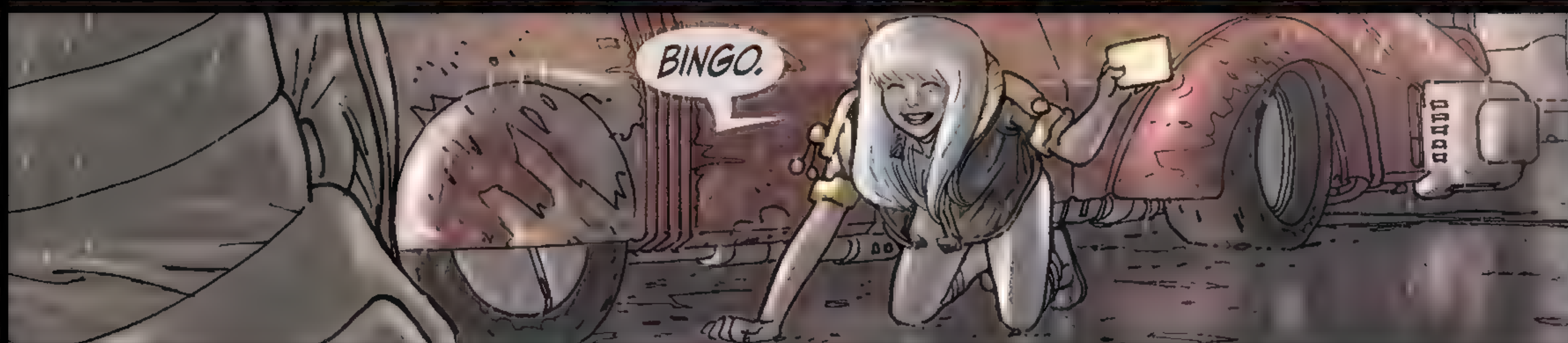


WELL, ISN'T THAT SWEET...













WHAT IN  
THE NAME OF  
THE GOOD  
MUD--?!



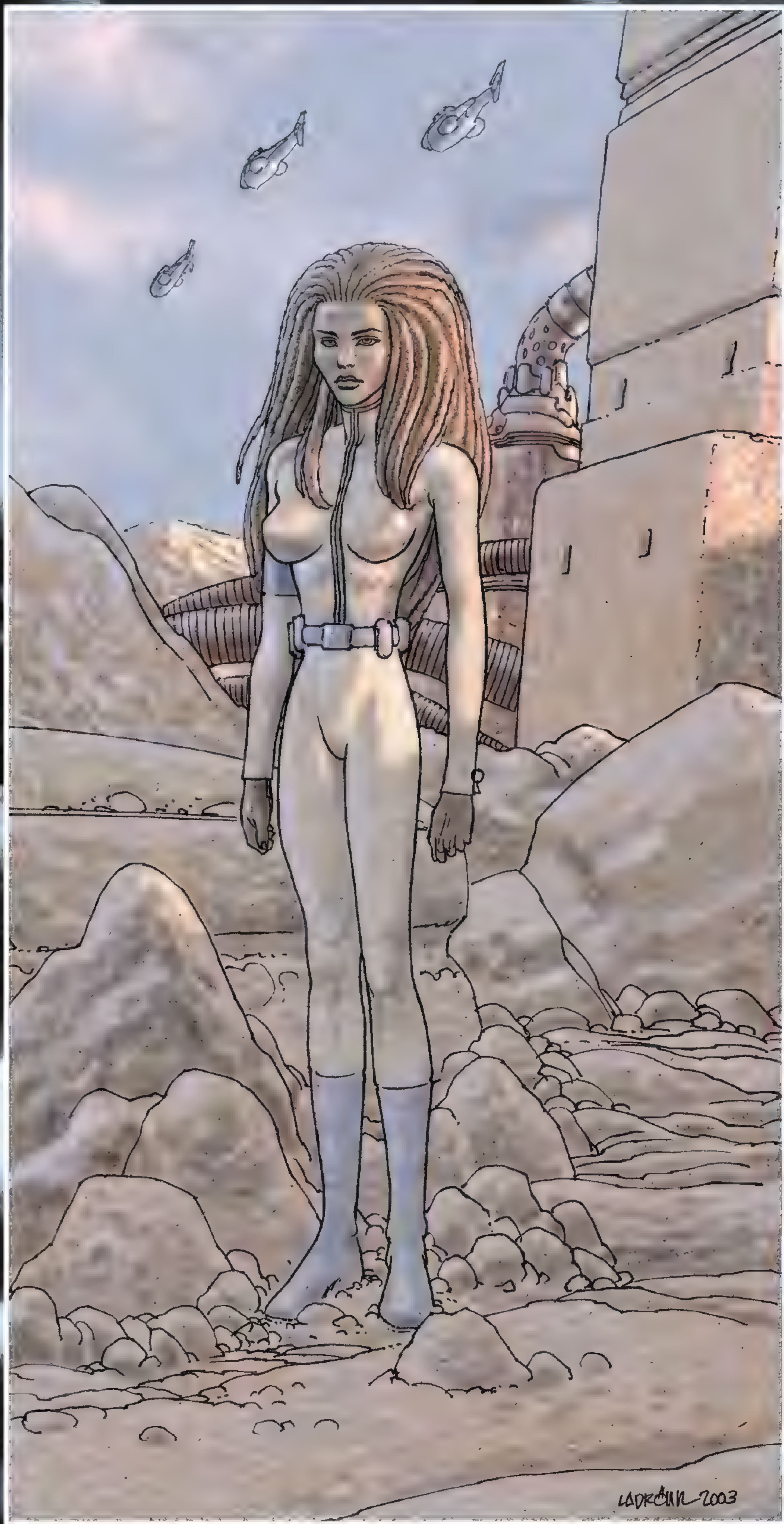
NEHT:

OUR ROBOTS

2006









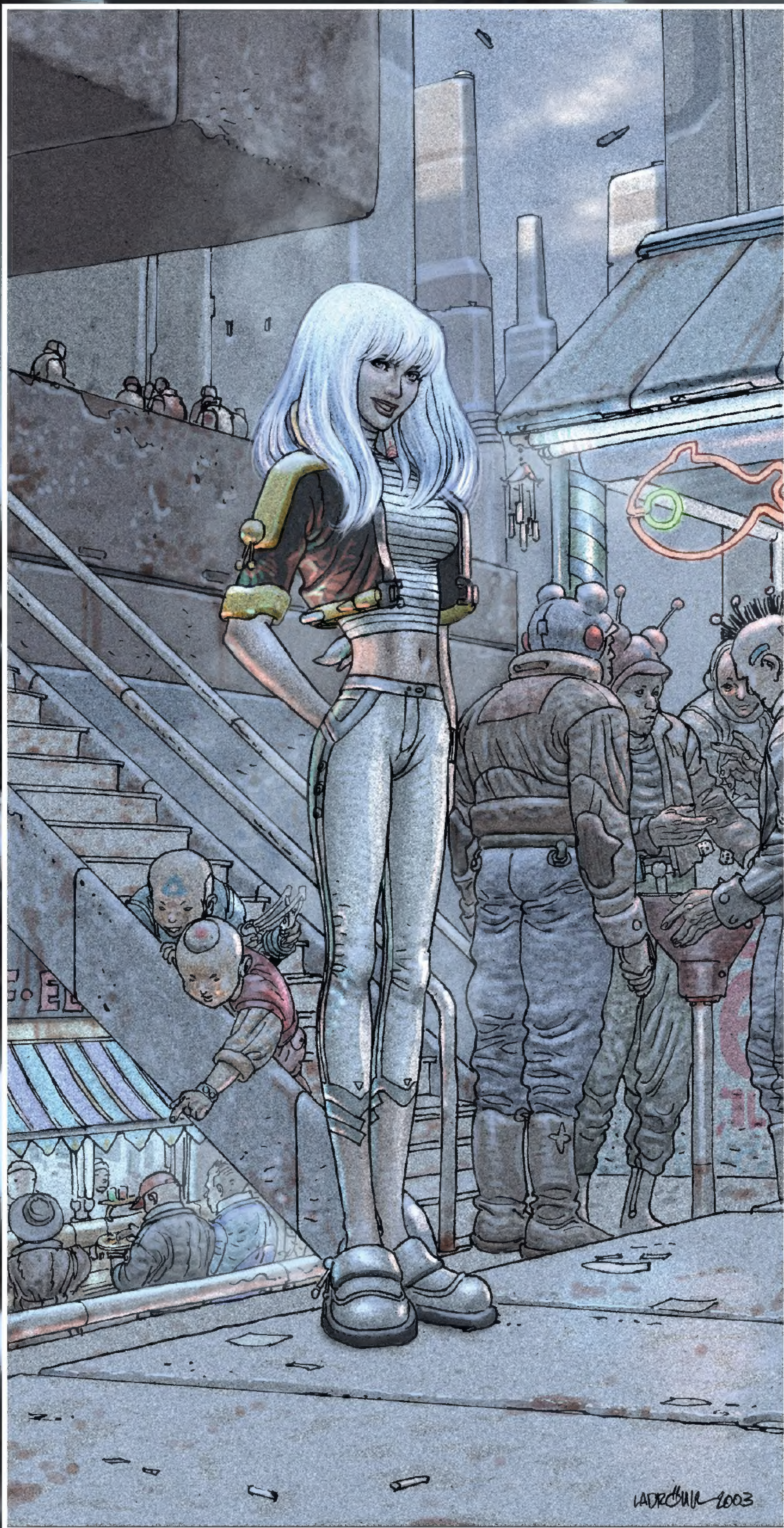


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RESPECTFULLY DEDICATES THIS ISSUE TO:  
ALAN MOORE, STEVE MOORE, STEVE DILLON,  
DAVID LLOYD AND STEVE PARKHOUSE.

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